
ALASKA STATE PARK SYSTEM: SOUTHCENTRAL REGION PLAN

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Department of Natural Resources' Land Management and the Alaska State Park System

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is manager of state-owned surface and subsurface natural resources, except for fish and wildlife. The department's long-term management goals and objectives are spelled out in the Statewide Natural Resources Plan prepared by the department's Division of Research and Development, Land and Resource Planning Section. To ensure compliance with these management objectives, specific land-use decisions made by the department must be within the context of that plan.

The Alaska Division of Parks developed the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework to further define the department's goals and policies with regard to the management — as state park units — of state-owned lands with recreational, natural and cultural values.

This document, the Alaska State Park System: Southcentral Region Plan, contains the recommendations for acquisition, planning, development and management — over the ten-year period from 1982-1992 — of state park units in Southcentral Alaska. The plan was developed within the scope of the Statewide Framework and in keeping with the Statewide Natural Resources Plan.



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SB483.S68A42 1982

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Prepared by Park Planning Section
Alaska Division of Parks
Department of Natural Resources
February 1982

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FIGURE 1. State Park Planning Regions

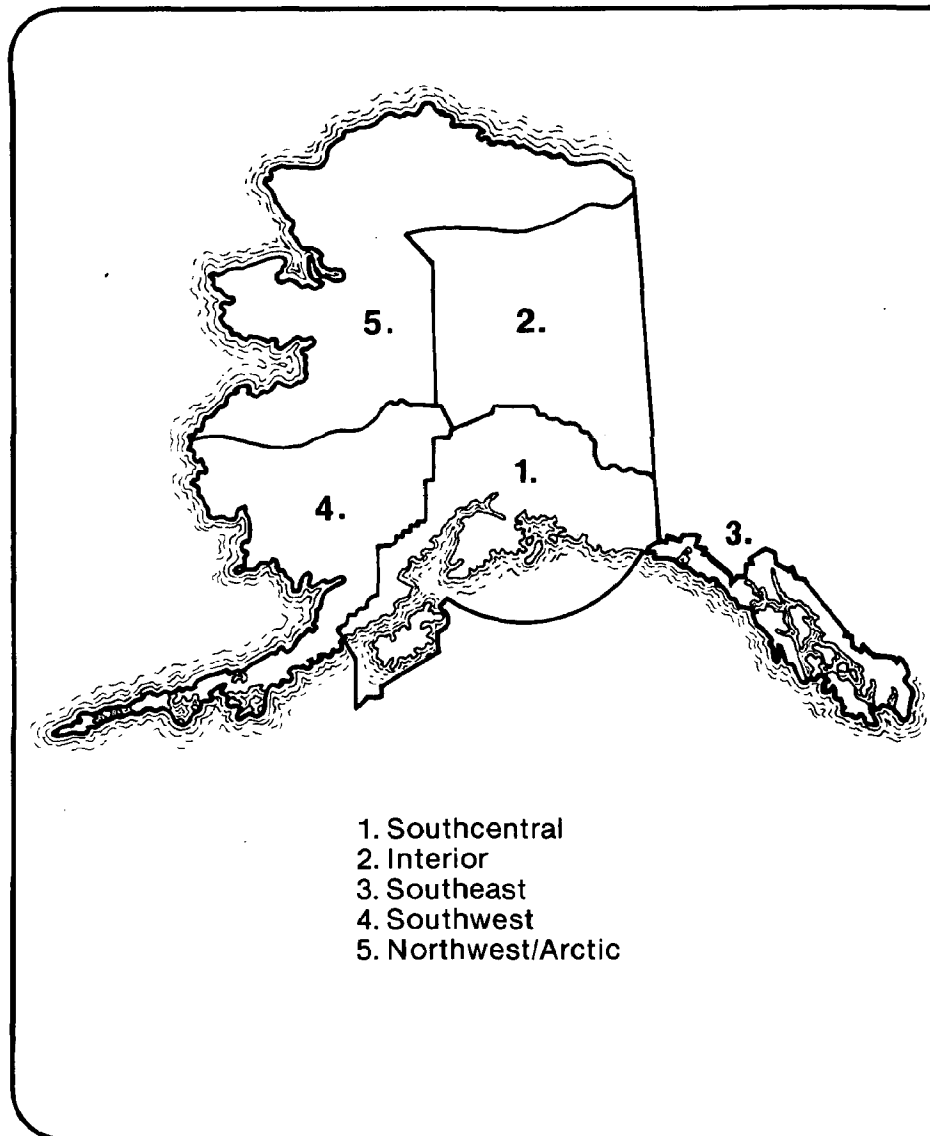
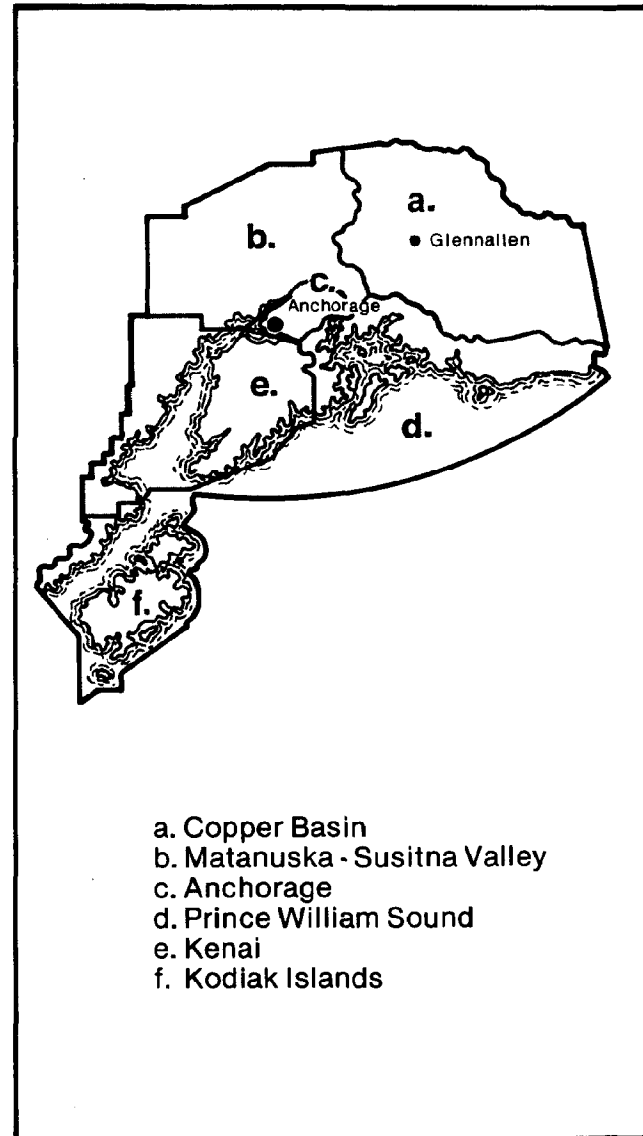


FIGURE 2. Southcentral Planning Subregions



Introduction

Purpose and Scope

This document -- the Alaska State Park System: Southcentral Region Plan -- is the first of five regional plans to be prepared by the Division of Parks.

This specific regional plan is intended to provide guidance for the acquisition, planning, development and management of the State Park System units in Southcentral Alaska for the next ten years. Due to difficulty in accurately forecasting changes in population, land ownership and use, preferred outdoor recreational activities and other factors, updating of this plan may be necessary before 1992.

Prior to reviewing any of the regional plans, it is suggested that the reader first review the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework. A copy of this document may be obtained from

Park Planning Section
Alaska Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Ave., Suite 210
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 274-4676

The Statewide Framework contains the overall goals and policies for the State Park System, definitions of the eight types of state park units and guidelines for the acquisition, planning, development and management of park system units within each planning region.

NOTE: The terms recreation and recreational will be used broadly in this document to encompass outdoor recreational, cultural, educational and scientific resources and public uses of these resources.

Regional Planning Process

All regional plans are prepared in accordance with the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework goals and policies. The regional planning process is shown in Figure 3. The established State Park System planning regions, and the order in which regional plans will be prepared are as follows: (see Figure 1).

1. Southcentral Region
2. Interior Region
3. Southeast Region
4. Southwest Region
5. Northwest/Arctic Region

This regional planning process was utilized during the preparation of the Southcentral Region Plan. In doing so, six subregions were established within the Southcentral Region: (see Figure 2).

- Copper Basin
- Matanuska-Susitna Valley
- Anchorage
- Prince William Sound
- Kenai
- Kodiak Islands

To the extent possible, subregional boundaries were defined to

- more clearly identify important subregional issues within the region;
- recognize distinct characteristics of the region;
- utilize existing borough or municipal boundaries where practical;
- facilitate data handling and public involvement

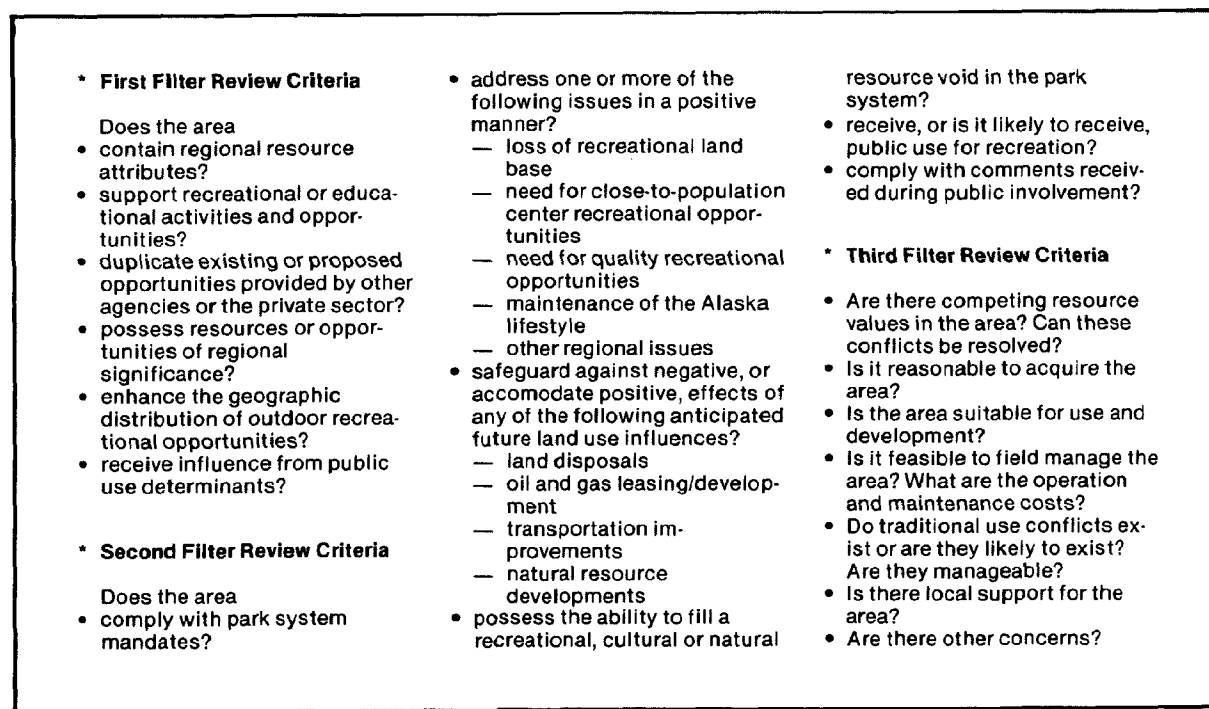
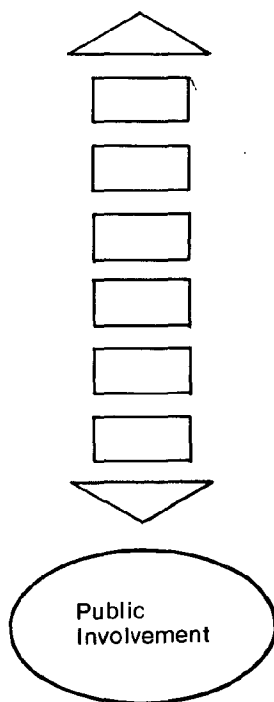
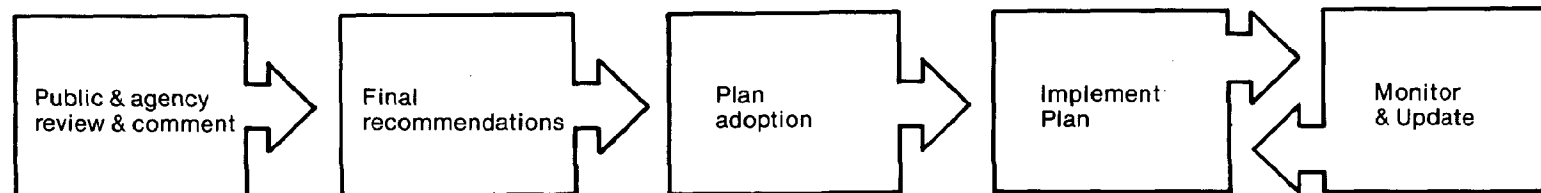
The Southcentral Region planning process included

1. identification of regional and subregional issues and concerns;

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graph LR
    A[Goals & purpose; Identify issues & concerns] --> B[Evaluate other agency programs & role of state park system]
    A --> C[Conduct analysis of regional outdoor recreational use determinants, patterns & preferences]
    A --> D[Evaluate land base & resource attributes]
    B --> E[Evaluate areas using review criteria]
    C --> E
    D --> E
    E --> F[Develop draft recommendations]
    E --> G[First Filter*]
    G --> H[Second Filter*]
    H --> I[Third Filter*]
    I --> F
    J[Public Involvement] -.-> A
    
```

The flowchart illustrates the process for developing draft recommendations. It begins with a box labeled "Goals & purpose; Identify issues & concerns". From this box, three arrows point to three separate boxes: "Evaluate other agency programs & role of state park system", "Conduct analysis of regional outdoor recreational use determinants, patterns & preferences", and "Evaluate land base & resource attributes". These three boxes then point to a larger box labeled "Evaluate areas using review criteria". Inside this box, there are three parallel paths, each starting with a box labeled "First Filter*", "Second Filter*", and "Third Filter*" respectively. These paths converge into a single arrow pointing to a box labeled "Develop draft recommendations". A dashed line connects the "Evaluate areas using review criteria" box to the "Develop draft recommendations" box. On the left side of the flowchart, there is a vertical stack of seven boxes, with a triangle pointing up above them and a triangle pointing down below them. Below this stack is an oval labeled "Public Involvement". At the bottom of the flowchart, there are four labels: "STATEWIDE FRAMEWORK & ISSUES", "INVENTORY", "REVIEW CRITERIA (FILTER)", and "DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS".



REVIEW

FINALIZE
PLAN

ADOPT
PLAN

IMPLEMENT
PLAN

UPDATE

-
2. incorporation of a high level of public involvement;
 3. evaluation of the provision of public, outdoor recreational opportunities by federal agencies, state agencies, local governments and the private sector;
 4. determination of public outdoor recreational use patterns and preferences through review of recreational survey data, public meeting testimony and other sources;
 5. determination of outdoor recreational attributes of the region (i.e., features that attract recreational use);
 6. identification of the principal determinants of outdoor recreational use patterns (i.e., highways, airports, harbors, population centers, etc.);
 7. evaluation of potential park system units using the review criteria in Figure 3;
 8. development of recommendations in view of items 1-6 above, for
 - a. additions or deletions of lands to or from existing park units,
 - b. establishment of new park units through legislative or administrative action,
 - c. general use and development concepts for each park unit through the management and site planning processes, and identification of the most appropriate unit title, and
 - d. areas requiring further study;
 9. identification of management implications of recommendations made in 8 above; and
 10. determination of priority of each recommended action.

Public Involvement

In May 1981, the Division of Parks held public meetings in ten communities to gather comments

and to identify concerns regarding the State Park System in Southcentral Alaska. Meetings were held in Homer, Soldotna, Seward, Glennallen, Valdez, Cordova, Talkeetna/Willow, Palmer, Anchorage and Kodiak. Informal settings were provided to allow the 103 participants to voice their opinions and concerns. Included among the concerns expressed were

- need for more developed facilities within existing state park units, state recreation areas and state trails;
- establishment of a state river program;
- more access to water bodies;
- improved management of existing park units; and
- cooperative management agreements with different agencies (i.e., to provide facilities, pick up litter, stock fish, maintain trails, etc.).

Figure 4 shows the concerns expressed at public meetings in more detail. Participants at the meetings were asked to complete survey questionnaires to help identify specific public concerns.

Because of the generally small attendance figures at the initial series of public meetings, it was decided to seek the public's comments on the draft plan's recommendations via a mail-back survey brochure rather than a second series of meetings. The brochures outlined the goals and policies of the State Park System as well as the definitions of and criteria for state park units, and then listed the proposed recommendations of the draft plan.

The brochures were made available to the public at key locations in each of the ten communities where public meetings had been held previ-

ously. Those attending the earlier meetings were sent personal copies of the survey brochure. The full range of media was employed to draw attention to the availability of the survey brochures and to urge public comment by mailing back the return-postage-paid questionnaires.

Responses, in many cases, were translated directly into recommendations and incorporated into the plan for final publication. A summary of results from the mail-back brochure is located in the recommendations chapter of this report.

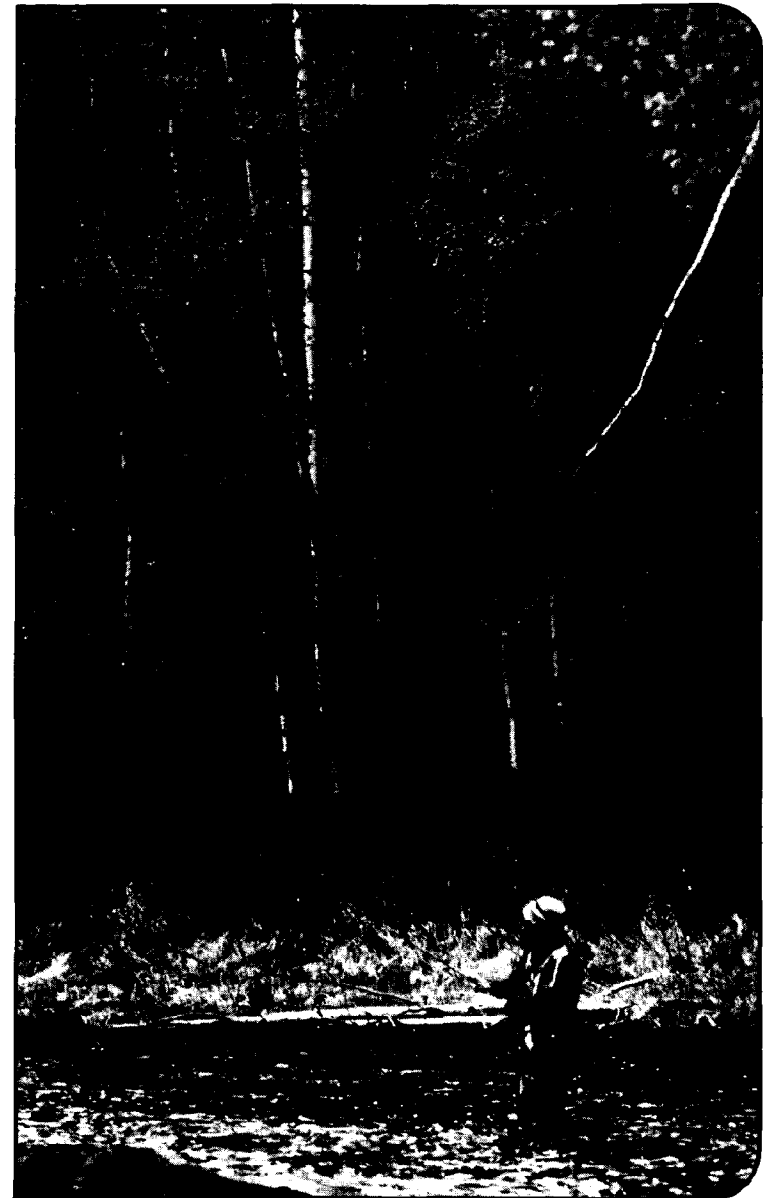


FIGURE 4. Concerns Expressed at Public Meetings

HOMER

- need for development of Kachemak Bay State Park, including public boat access, trails and campgrounds
- need for State Preserves
- need for development of areas such as Cottonwood and Eastland Creeks SRA
- need to provide trail-related opportunities

GLENNALLEN

- need to develop, through interagency coordination, a trail system in Copper Basin
- need to coordinate agency litter removal at highway turn-outs
- need to identify and manage state easements across Native land
- need to develop a canoe trail system near Lake Louise
- need to develop state park units to provide a diversity of outdoor recreational activities — including family-oriented use
- desire to establish State Recreation Rivers

VALDEZ

- desire to establish a Mineral Creek Canyon SRA
- desire to convey the Valdez Glacier Wayside to the City of Valdez
- need to establish a marine park system in Valdez Arm and Prince William Sound
- need to develop trail opportunities

CORDOVA

- desire to establish a Mt. Eccles SRA
- desire to establish a marine park system in Prince William Sound
- desire to establish an Alaska trail system
- need to coordinate state agency management for efficiency of operations
- need to work with Native corporations to maintain areas open to public use

WILLOW - TALKEETNA

- need to establish more developed state recreational areas to correct problems at overused salmon fishing streams
- desire to establish modern camping facilities with electrical plug-ins and sewage disposal
- need to use interagency coordination to solve litter problem
- desire to establish a trail system with overnight shelters, particularly within Denali State Park
- desire to keep the power line out of Denali State Park and the highway's visual corridor

- desire not to develop Tokositna project
- desire to provide Alaska lifestyle parks with opportunities to experience homesteading

PALMER

- need to expand management of existing state park units — more staff, developed facilities, and longer seasons
- desire to develop Eklutna Lake area (within Chugach State Park)
- desire to develop some modern campgrounds
- desire to stock lakes in Nancy Lake SRA and enhance fisheries in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley
- need to coordinate agency efforts to pick up litter
- desire to preserve berry-picking areas
- desire to establish trails, including equestrian
- a need for borough to execute recreational powers

ANCHORAGE

- desire to provide smaller amounts of wilderness zone since federal government supplies so much
- need to develop existing facilities and expand management capabilities
- desire to protect access to rivers and establish State Recreation Rivers
- desire to establish State Historic Parks
- desire to establish State Trails

KODIAK

- desire, as a first priority, to establish state park units along island road system to include ocean beaches (including Myrtle and Roslyn Creeks, Buskin River, Pillar Mountain, Pasagshak River)
- need to develop existing state park units and expand management
- desire to develop marine park sites (Woody Island and Hidden Basin)
- desire to develop trails
- desire to establish designated camping sites on grazing leases
- desire to acquire management rights to Cape Chiniak from Koniag, Inc

SOLDOTNA

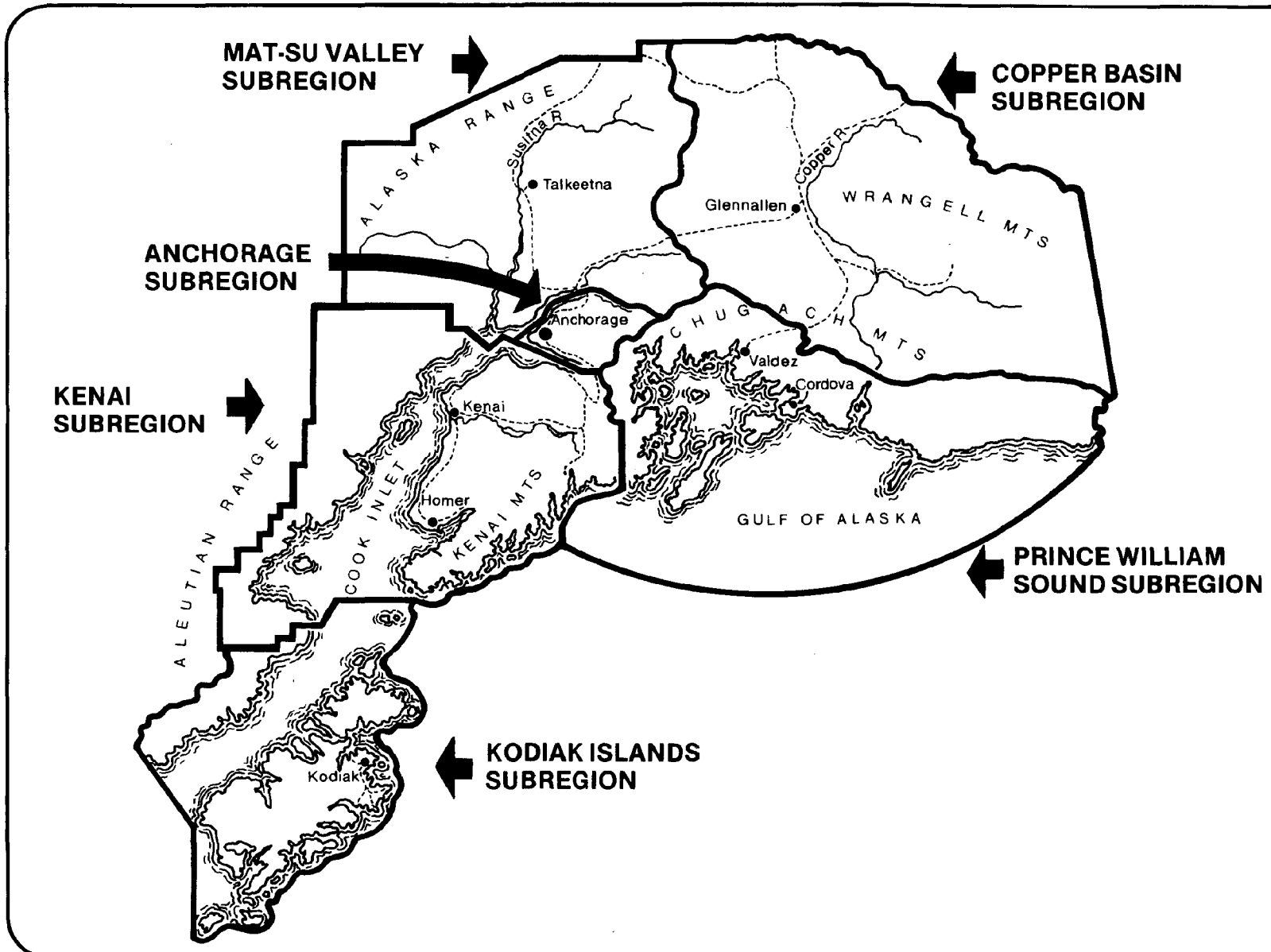
- no public attendance

SEWARD

- minimal public attendance



FIGURE 5. Southcentral Region



Regional Overview

The Southcentral Region extends from the hydrographic divide of the Alaska Range on the north, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary on the west, Kodiak Island to the south and the Alaska/Canada border on the east (see Figure 5). The large diversity of landscapes and resources in Southcentral Alaska offers a variety of outdoor recreational, natural, educational and cultural opportunities. The region abounds with ocean shorelines, freshwater lake systems, free-flowing rivers, massive mountains, glaciers the size of states, numerous species of wildlife, a variety of landscapes and rich cultural histories. This diversity of outdoor environments makes the region attractive to recreationists.

Physiography

Each of the six subregions contains specific characteristics which attract outdoor recreationists. The Copper Basin Subregion is noted for its open expanse with views of impressive mountain ranges that are separated by lowlands and intersected by large river systems. The Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion is comprised of spruce-hardwood forests, river valleys and easily-accessible routes to the tundra and mountainous areas. The Anchorage Subregion portrays the stark contrasts of the largest city in the state, the ocean shoreline and a large, accessible alpine environment. The Kenai Subregion has exposed ocean beaches and shorelines, large freshwater lake systems and extensive glaciated mountain ranges. Prince William Sound Subregion possesses fjords, tidewater glaciers, islands, Sitka spruce and western hemlock forests (more typical of Southeast Alaska), and numerous sheltered bays.

The Kodiak Islands Subregion contains the state's largest island, is strongly influenced by the Pacific Ocean, and has grasslands similar to those found on the Aleutian Islands, surf-pounded ocean beaches and abundant marine life.

Climate

There are three climatic zones in the Southcentral Region. The southern and coastal portions of the region, which are greatly influenced by water, are in the maritime zone. Here, temperatures are generally mild, winds are persistent, and precipitation is generally in the form of heavy rain. Inland and northwards, the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregions are in the transition zone with warm summer temperatures and winter temperatures that are milder than in the continental zone. Amounts of precipitation in this zone vary. The northern and eastern parts of the Southcentral Region are in the continental zone, known for its extreme high and low temperatures and low levels of precipitation.

Population

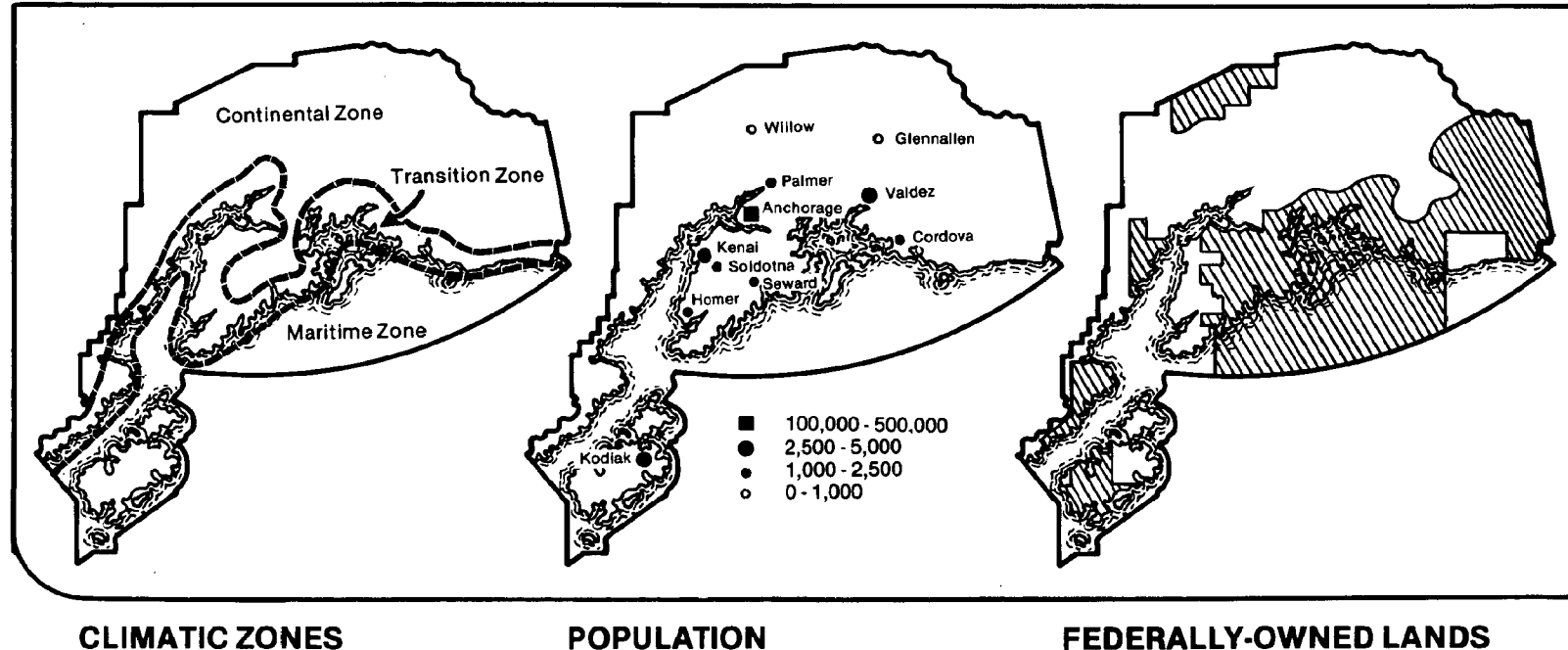
More than half the state's residents live in the Southcentral Region. The largest city in the state, Anchorage, has 173,017 residents. It is centrally located and serves as the region's service center. Other large population centers in the subregion are Kodiak, Valdez and Kenai. The remaining residents live in communities with fewer than 3,000 people, on rural homesites or in the bush.

Land Ownership

Federally-owned lands within the Southcentral Region are generally large, remote parcels of land. State lands are generally closer to highways and located near valleys and rivers. In the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Copper Basin Subregions, there are larger areas of state-owned land in remote locations. Private lands are often located near transportation routes. Native corporation selections, pursuant to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, occur in the region on lands neighboring villages and frequently along rivers. Lands selected by municipalities, like state lands, are also closer to highways and population centers.

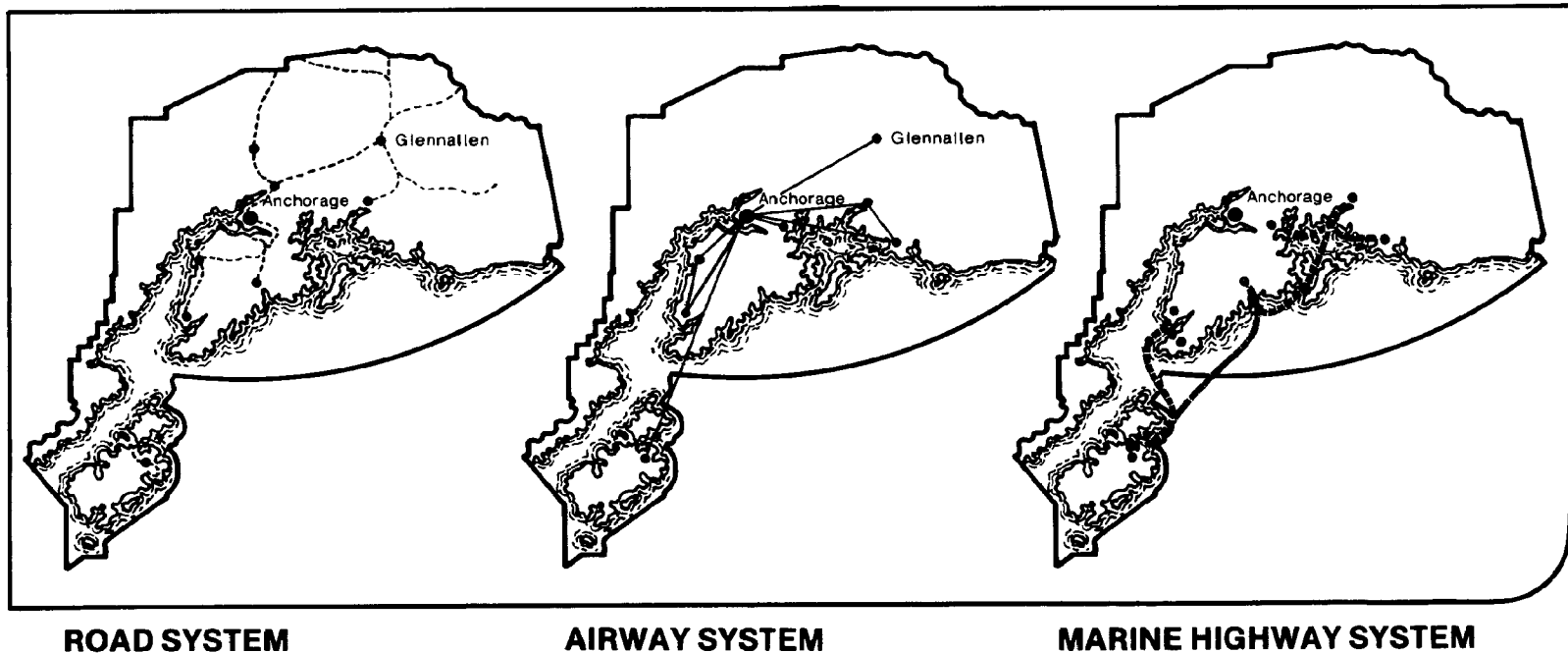
Economy

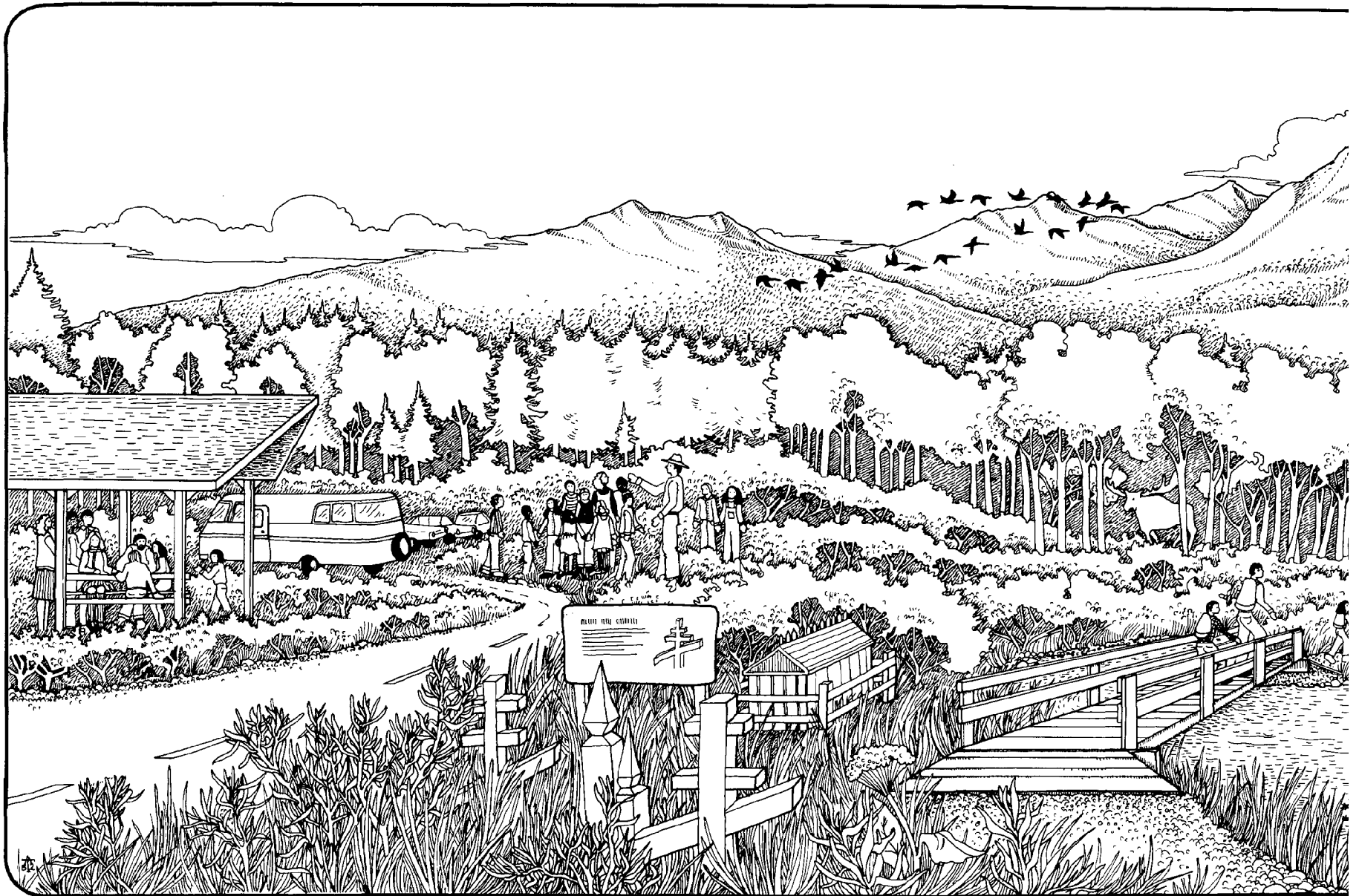
The Southcentral Region's economy is based on support services, commercial fishing, mining, forestry, petroleum, tourism and private business. The growth trends in the economy are primarily natural-resource-development related. Recreation and tourism have shown steady growth within the region. As of 1981, tourism was rated as the state's second most important industry supporting the economy. In the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion, tourism is the number one industry. Regional economies will improve as tourism attractions, including recreational opportunities, become more available in Southcentral Alaska.



Transportation

The Southcentral Region also contains the state's most developed transportation system. The region is inter-connected by paved highways and graveled secondary roads providing good access to many areas. There is also an extensive system of airports -- ranging in size and sophistication from the Anchorage International Airport to surfaced or graveled strips, to numerous gravel bars and water bodies which permit access by small planes. The Alaska Railroad services a portion of the region as does the Alaska Marine Highway (ferry) System. With this developed public transportation system, the region offers the most easily-accessible outdoor recreational opportunities in the state.





Factors Influencing Participation in Outdoor Recreation



Recreational Attributes

Outdoor recreational attributes are those natural and cultural resource values which support, or have the potential to support, outdoor recreational activities. Throughout the Southcentral Region, the great diversity of physiography, climate, cultural events and sites, and other attributes provides a variety of opportunities.

Land Forms

Southcentral Alaska displays a variety of landforms. These include ocean shorelines, bogs, grassy hillsides, forested valleys, ice fields, and rugged peaks.

The region abounds with spectacular and accessible mountain ranges: The Alaska Range, containing Mt. McKinley (Denali) -- the highest peak in North America -- is covered with rivers of glaciers flowing for miles; the Wrangell-St. Elias Range is representative of volcanic formations; the Chugach and Kenai mountains are similar to the Alaska Range, containing glaciers, ice and snow year-round. The Kodiak Mountains are representative of grassy mountains found on the Aleutian Chain. The sunken mountains, or fjords, of Prince William Sound and portions of the Kenai and Kodiak coastline are notable land form features along this portion of the region's coastline.

Water Bodies

Water is an important natural resource attribute for outdoor recreational activities and water-based recreational opportunities in the Southcentral Region. Miles of ocean shoreline encourage saltwater-related activities such as beachcombing, fishing and boating. A multi-

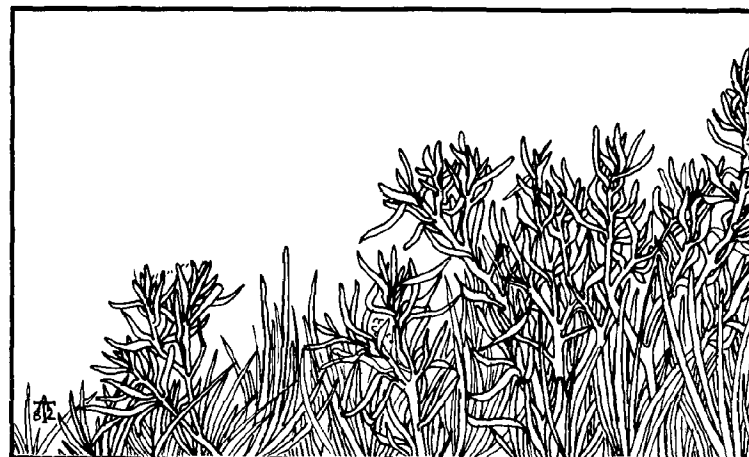
tude of freshwater lake systems and free-flowing rivers -- both clear and silt laden -- offers recreational activities such as fishing, rafting, canoeing, kayaking, motorboating and sailing. Water bodies also provide an important setting for camping, picnicking and hiking.

Scenic Values

Southcentral Alaska's varied topography provides scenic values which, when coupled with accessibility provided by the highway system, are important recreational attributes. Driving for pleasure is one of Alaska's most popular recreational activities.

Open Space

The Southcentral Region contains vast areas of undeveloped lands which support dispersed types of recreational activities. Although close-to-home open space is decreasing due to land development and ownership changes, there are still many opportunities throughout the region to hike, ski, backpack, hunt, fish, gather wild foods and view wildlife.



Plant Life

Vegetation is abundant and varied in Southcentral Alaska. Gathering wild plants for food is a favorite Alaska recreational activity associated with natural resources. Throughout the region, people gather berries, mushrooms, parsley, rose hips and other plants. Plants are also the subject of both amateur and professional botanists and photographers.

Wildlife

Alaska is one of the few places in the nation where people still have opportunities to view a variety of wildlife, to hunt for game and to catch salt- and fresh-water fish. Many tourists and recreationists come to Alaska in search of these wildlife-related recreational activities. The number of hunting and fishing licenses sold per capita in the state is double that of any other state. Fishing is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities in Southcentral Alaska.

Cultural, Scientific and Educational Opportunities

Alaska's history and cultures are of great interest to the public. Investigating a region's history is considered by many to be an important recreational activity. Historical and cultural resources in Southcentral Alaska make possible such investigation through interpretive displays, museums, historical sites and other similar efforts.

Natural resources within Southcentral Alaska can and do support a wide variety of scientific research activities. A diversity of plants and animal species, geological formations, minerals, fossils and other natural resource values offer opportunities for research or natural-science-related outdoor activities.

Southcentral Alaska's abundant natural and cultural resources also have educational value. People of all ages can continue to learn about the state through guided programs in the out-of-doors as well as through classes and literature. A knowledgeable citizenry can more readily appreciate the complexities of resource values and management issues.

Recreational Use Determinants

The locations of recreational, natural and cultural resources are the primary determinants of outdoor recreational opportunities. However, the extent to which the public makes use of the opportunities is based, in part, on recreational use determinants such as transportation systems, location and size of population centers, availability of outdoor recreational facilities, land ownership and public access policies, individual disposable income and available leisure time, visibility of public information re-

garding available opportunities and technological changes in outdoor recreational opportunities.

Transportation System

Southcentral Alaska's transportation network -- including highways, air routes, the railroad and the ferry system -- provides access to a large variety of outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. As the transportation routes improve or expand in the region, so will the outdoor recreational, cultural, scientific and educational opportunities.

Population Centers

Population base is an important determinant of public use of recreational opportunities. The central location and size of the region, its industrial development and an improved job market are some of the factors which are creating an increase in the population of Southcentral Alaska. As the population base grows, more people will choose to participate in a greater variety of recreational, cultural, scientific and educational experiences. The increased number of users will also place increased pressures on existing facilities and create demands for new types of facilities and improvement of existing ones. Concentrations of population growth in communities such as Anchorage, Kenai, Wasilla and Valdez will result in an increased demand for weekend recreational opportunities within two to four hours driving time of those communities.



Outdoor Recreation Facilities

To a large degree, the level of use an area receives is dependent on the provision of outdoor recreational facilities. Most people prefer developed campgrounds and picnic areas which provide sanitation facilities and which are patrolled by rangers or other law enforcement personnel. Although areas without these services (such as Montana Creek in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley or several Kenai Peninsula salmon fishing streams) receive high levels of use, public use could increase if such services were provided at these sites.

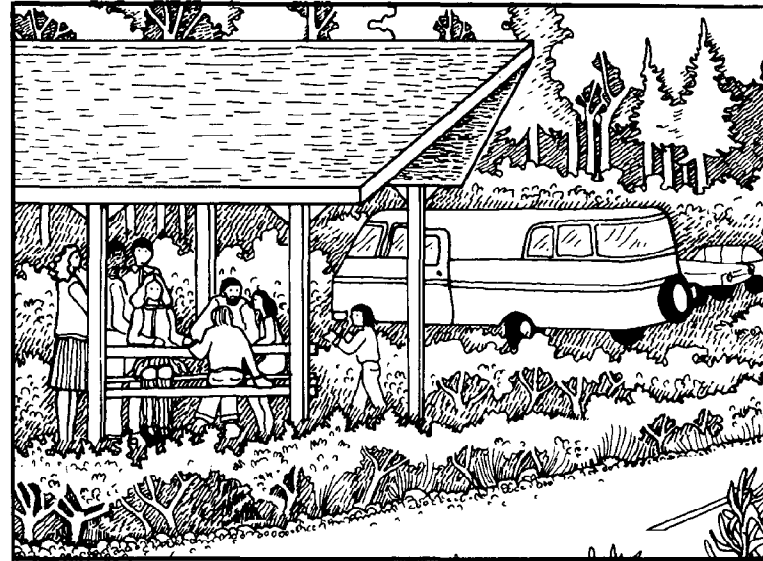
Income and Leisure Time

Although the cost of living is high in Alaska, residents may also have more available money to spend on leisure activities due to generally higher income levels in the state. Such leisure expenditures include purchasing equipment and gasoline for travel.

Alaskans' work schedules tend to be quite varied. Some residents may only work three or four days a week, while others work 14 days, then take 14 days off. The flexibilities of work schedules frequently allow residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities for longer periods of time.

Public Information

Information available to the public on outdoor recreational opportunities can be an important determinant of outdoor recreational use. This information may be in the forms of park brochures, travel publications, magazine articles or



conversations among friends. As a new recreational opportunity is discovered and the word spreads, public use of an area can double or triple without any significant changes in other use determinants.

Technological Changes

As new types of recreational activities are developed or improved upon, more opportunities become available to the public. New activities, such as motorized hang gliders and driving hovercrafts, are becoming increasingly popular in the region. Improved equipment, such as plastic kayaks and three-pin mountaineering ski bindings, expands the concept of existing sports. Improved skill levels of participants, coupled with technological improvements, will continue to expand outdoor recreational opportunities.

Outdoor Recreational Preferences

The outdoor recreational activities in which Southcentral Alaska residents participate, and those activities in which they would like to participate more often, are important in determining the proper role of the Alaska State Park System in meeting recreational demands in Southcentral Alaska (see Figure 6).

In order to determine priorities among new and existing state park units, the role the State Park System plays in providing recreational opportunities and whether the state is meeting the recreational needs of Alaska residents in the Southcentral region, it is important to consider the following:

- recreational activities in which people currently participate;
- recreational activities in which people would like to do more often;
- reasons for not participating more;
- residents' favored recreational activities;
- types of activities for increased provision and management by the state.

The data presented in Figures 6, 7, 8, and 9 are from a Statewide household survey conducted in 1979. Basic analysis of this data for the Southcentral region has been completed by Clark and Johnson, and the Alaska Division of Parks, and is abstracted here. For more complete information on this survey and its results, the reader is referred to Clark and Johnson (1981), and the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1981. Other data are cited as necessary.

FIGURE 6. Southcentral Alaska Resident Outdoor Recreation Data

A. Activities in which adults most frequently participate (analysis by Clark and Johnson)

driving for pleasure
walking/running for pleasure
fishing
audience for outdoor sports
tent camping
motorboating
bicycling
cross-country skiing
target shooting
recreational vehicle camping

B. Activities in which adults would like to participate more often (analysis by Clark and Johnson)

fishing
camping (general, tent)
hunting
motorboating
hiking
alpine skiing
flying
driving for pleasure
recreational vehicle camping
bicycling

C. Activities rated as favorite by adults (analysis by Alaska Division of Parks)

fishing
tent camping
walking/running for pleasure
hunting
motorboating
beachcombing
playing softball/baseball
cross-country skiing
alpine skiing
bicycling

(Based on responses by adults participating in the 1979 Alaska Public Survey)

The top ten activities listed for "what people are doing," "what they would like to do more often", and "what their favorite activities are" can be found in Figure 6.

Recreational activities for the Southcentral Region show fishing, driving for pleasure, winter-related activities and water-related activities as most popular. In evidence of the popularity of fishing, it is noted that sport-fishing license sales have risen 40 percent in the six years since 1975, while the population of the state has remained fairly stable. There were 206,832 sport-fishing licenses sold in 1980; of these 132,103 were sold to Alaska residents.

Use of accessible fishing streams has also increased. User days on the Little Susitna River climbed from 6,000 in 1977 to 21,000 in 1979. There has also been a substantial increase in user days at Montana Creek, now considered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to be the most heavily fished stream in the upper Cook Inlet region. On the Kenai Peninsula, Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River and the Kenai River receive heavy recreational use.

This increased use has created overcrowding and over-use conditions at existing facilities on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. These conditions have also led to the public trespassing on private land to engage in outdoor recreational pursuits. The need for expansion of existing sites, or the acquisition of new sites to disperse use and accommodate the increased interest in fishing as a recreational activity, is apparent.

Driving for pleasure is a favorite recreational

activity among Alaskans (see Figure 8). Although State Parks is not directly responsible for providing opportunities for this recreational activity, it is one in which people participate while driving to various State Park System units. Driving for pleasure is also rated highly among those activities participated in by visitors to the state. The state park units associated with the state's primary road system serve to accommodate this favorite recreational activity.

There has been a rapid increase in participation and interest in winter related activities in the Southcentral Region since the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan recreational survey in 1976. Cross-country skiing, snow-machining, dogmushing, ice hockey and snowshoeing are some favored winter activities. The limited daylight hours generally hamper activities, limiting them to weekends or to places close to population centers. The sale of winter recreational equipment has increased substantially. In the 1979 Alaska Public Survey, 39 percent of the respondents indicated they owned cross-country skis, while 23 percent owned downhill skis, 22 percent owned snow-machines, 12 percent owned ice skates and 5 percent had snowshoes.

With Southcentral Alaska's many lakes, streams and miles of marine shoreline, water-oriented recreational activities and opportunities would appear to be abundant. However, in some situations, legal public access to water is a problem because of private property along waterways.

The number of boaters in the region has increased substantially. Sales of boating equip-

FIGURE 7. Reasons Given for Not Participating More Often in Desired Activities

not enough time	72%
inappropriate weather	40%
places too crowded	39%
costs too much	32%
transportation too expensive	30%
lacking proper equipment	29%
no access by car	29%
not enough locations	27%
seasons closed	23%
cannot locate	20%
lack of proper facilities	15%
family can't/won't participate	15%
other	15%

(1979 Alaska Public Survey - analysis by Clark and Johnson)

ment at local Anchorage sporting goods stores increased significantly in the late 1970's. Membership in the Knik Kanoers and Kayakers of Anchorage rose nearly 100 percent in 1981. The number of persons on waiting lists for marine boat moorages is great, with people waiting as long as two years to obtain a slip. To meet water-oriented recreational needs, the acquisition and development of river, lake and marine park units is necessary.

Even though the overall participation rates for outdoor recreational activities in the state are high, there are various reasons why people do not participate more often in desired activities. These responses can be found in Figure 7.

FIGURE 8. Average Number of Times per Year a Southcentral Region Adult Participates in a Given Activity

driving for pleasure	18.3
walking/running for pleasure	13.3
bicycling	12.5
freshwater fishing	7.5
motorboating	5.3
motorcycling/other summer ORV	5.1
cross-country skiing	5.0
playing baseball/softball	4.8
sledding/tobogganing	4.5
snowmobiling/other winter ORV	4.4
swimming	4.1
audience for sports/entertainment	3.8
tent camping	3.6
outdoor tennis/badminton	3.5
target shooting	3.3
recreational vehicle camping	3.1
kayaking/canoeing	3.1
hiking with pack	2.9

(1979 Alaska Public Survey - analysis by Alaska Division of Parks)

The Alaska Division of Parks has little direct control over the elimination of many of these obstacles. It can, however, provide -- in cooperation with local governments -- areas close to home which offer recreational opportunities for the public.

In 1980, there were more than one-half million visitors to the state; it is estimated that, by 1985, there will be more than one million visitors to Alaska each year. This is an increase of 10 to 15 percent each year (Alaska Division

of Tourism, 1977). In 1980, tourism visitor days within state park units totaled 400,000, and the Alaska Division of Parks estimates that tourist user days will increase to 700,000 in 1985. The top recreational activities of visitors to the state include driving for pleasure/ sight-seeing, camping, hiking and sportfishing (Alaska Division of Tourism, 1977).

Thirty-seven percent of the respondents to advertisements for the 1979 Worlds of Alaska, a state-sponsored travel publication, said they wanted information on recreational experiences "off the beaten track" but close to major destination points. Travel for pleasure is generally occurring during the months of June, July and August. The average stay of visitors to the state is two to three weeks. During the winter months, one third of the visitors to Alaska come strictly for pleasure. The automobile is the most widely used method of transportation within the state by tourists. Ninety-five percent of the state park units in Southcentral Alaska can be reached by private automobile. Therefore, visitors to the state can use the State Park System, and their outdoor recreational use preferences are, thus, a concern of the Alaska Division of Parks.

Interpretation of the public preference survey for Southcentral Alaska and its implications for the State Park System indicates that recreational preference and participation rates favor expansion of traditional recreational opportunities such as fishing, hiking and camping. Trends in recreational use show an increase in trail-related activities, winter sports, use of road-accessible areas, water-based activities and areas which provide diversities of recreational opportunities in proximity to population centers (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 9. Outdoor Recreational Features for which there is a Desired Increase

NON-URBAN

fishing
facilities (minimum)
water access
hunting areas
footpaths/trails
ORV trails
overnight lodging
paved roads
facilities (maximum)
unpaved roads
playgrounds
lawns/beaches
logging roads

STATE MANAGEMENT

roadside campgrounds/picnic areas
remote cabins
hiking trails
developed recreational areas
boat-accessible areas
backpacking campsites
community parks
plane-accessible areas
canoeing/kayaking/rafting areas
well-accessed areas
historic sites
wilderness areas

(1979 Alaska Public Survey -
analysis by Clark and Johnson)





Regional Issues

Without positive action for protection, provision and enhancement of public recreational opportunities, there will be a dramatic reduction of these opportunities during the coming decade. This potential loss of public recreational opportunities, in terms of both quality and quantity, can be viewed through six regional outdoor recreational issues. These issues relate specifically to the Southcentral Region and were defined through comments presented at public, interagency, and State Park System staff meetings; analysis of the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1981; through the review of publications; and through the identification of those topics receiving public attention in the media as well as attention on the part of government agencies and elected officials. These region-wide issues -- evaluated in conjunction with the regional attributes, public use determinants, and outdoor recreational use patterns and preference data -- lead to the development of the recommendations in this plan. After discussion of each issue, a strategy is presented with which the Division of Parks will address and/or resolve the issue.

ISSUE: Increase in Recreational Demand

Throughout Southcentral Alaska there has been an increase in the demand for outdoor recreational opportunities. With changes in the public use determinants -- such as increased population -- people are requesting that more recreational opportunities be available and accessible to them year-round. Alaska Division of Parks' use statistics indicate lengthening seasons for both summer and winter activities. Intensity of use is also increasing. For example, recreational use on the Little Susitna

River in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion increased three-fold from 1977 through 1979. Increased year-round use of facilities in the Kenai Subregion is also occurring. Contributing to the increased demand for recreational opportunities are the variable schedules Alaskans have for recreating and the fact that visitors are spending an average of 14 days per person in the state. These longer periods of leisure time provide people with opportunities to choose a greater variety of activities in which they may actively participate. It is not uncommon to observe, at mid-week, large crowds at key fishing streams during major salmon runs, or people on extended stays at state park units.

Greater vehicle fuel costs will have minimal effect on overall recreational demand. Several studies conducted in other states show that, while total travel distances have been reduced, the amount of time spent by individuals in recreational pursuits has stayed the same or increased. In general, people are taking fewer long and weekend trips and are focusing on areas closer to home.

STRATEGY

Expand the level of development and intensity of management at existing State Park System units. Acquire, develop and staff new state park units within the region.

ISSUE: Impact of Anchorage Resident Recreational Use on Nearby Subregions

Anchorage is the largest city in the state and is centrally located on the highway and railbelt

systems. As such, it is the service center for the Southcentral Region and is the point-of-entry for many visitors to Alaska.

Many of Anchorage's residents participate in outdoor recreational activities outside city limits, thus causing great fluctuations in recreational use in the other subregions. Approximately half the weekend recreational use occurring in the Kenai and Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregions is that of Anchorage residents and/or visitors based out of Anchorage.

Trespassing, litter, highway congestion and competition for fish and wildlife are primary concerns expressed by local residents of these two subregions. In areas such as Deep Creek and Ninilchik, these problems have been related to overcrowded, underdeveloped and understaffed state park units. However, in many areas these problems are also occurring on other public or private lands.

Concern has been expressed by some local residents that developing new park units and facilities will only attract more "outsiders." Other local residents have suggested higher levels of staffing and management or the provision of new park units to disperse the use.

STRATEGY

Acquire additional lands, where appropriate, and intensify development and management at existing park units where spillover use is adversely impacting local residents and the environment. Where possible, acquire and develop new park units to disperse use. Provide undeveloped buffers of park land between park users and

adjoining private landowners. The Alaska Division of Parks should also cooperate with other agencies to increase law enforcement capabilities in park units. Through public information efforts, park users should be encouraged to respect private property of local residents.

ISSUE: Close-to-Home Opportunities

The need for diverse outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities close to population centers is currently a key issue, and it will become even more important in the future. The high price of gasoline and increasing demand for recreational opportunities create a need for recreational opportunities within proximity of major population centers.

People in Southcentral Alaska are still willing to travel as much as two to four hours from their homes to participate in activities of their choice. But as the gasoline and oil prices continue to increase, and if the supply of petroleum resources decreases, this willingness to travel longer distances may change. Higher fuel prices may force people to spend more time near their homes.

While millions of acres of federal lands have been reserved for park purposes, these lands are, for the most part, remote and, thus, far beyond convenient access by the average citizen or by visitors to the state. For every individual who floats the Noatak River in the Brooks Range, a hundred will visit Alexander Creek in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion and a thousand, the Kenai River. For every individual who visits the historic Kennicott Mines in

the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, a thousand will visit Independence Mine State Historic Park in Hatcher Pass in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion.

STRATEGY

The Alaska State Park System will acquire, develop and manage state park units to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities within proximity of the population centers of the Southcentral Region.

ISSUE: Maintaining the Recreational Land and Water Base

The potential for dramatic reduction of the recreational, cultural, scientific and educational opportunities in Southcentral Alaska has been created by the following:

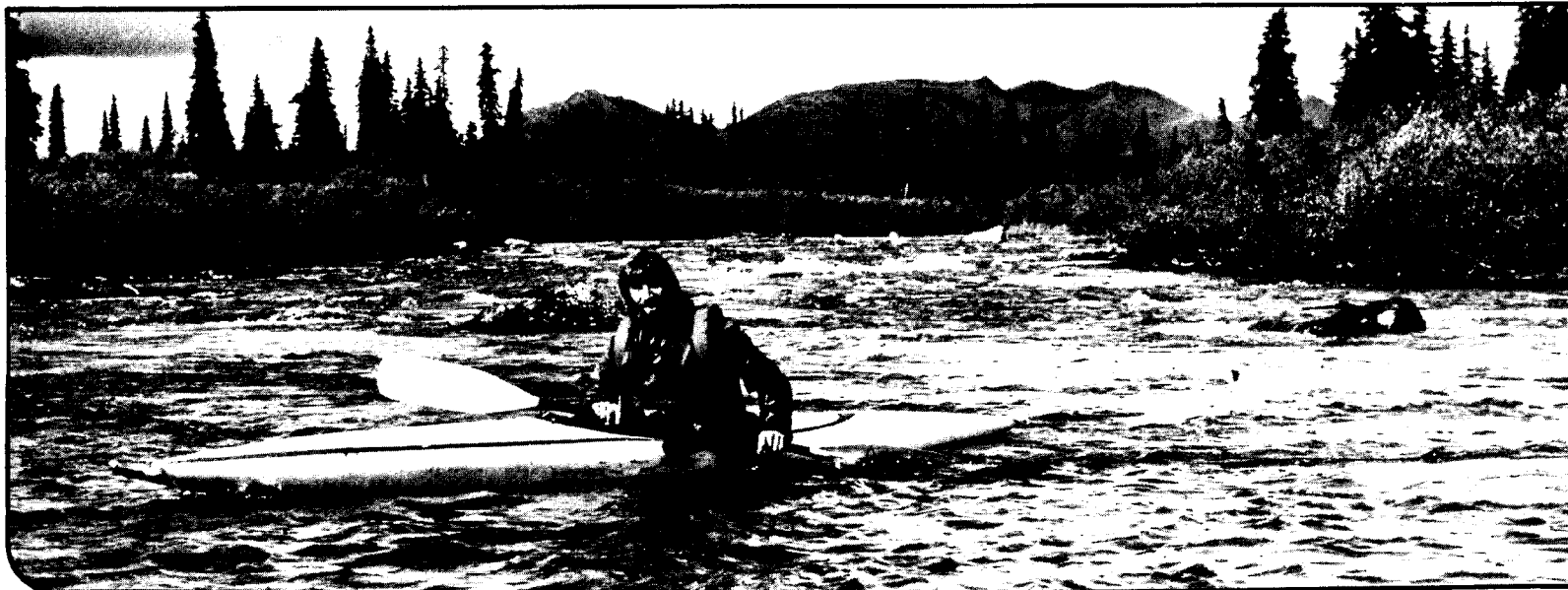
- sale and disposal to private individuals of hundreds of thousands of acres of public land by state and local governments;
- conveyance of 44 million acres of public land into private ownership through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;
- transfer of state lands to municipalities through the Municipal Entitlement Act;
- commitment of state and federal lands to other resource uses which may depreciate or restrict the quality and quantity of recreational opportunities currently available;
- subdivision and development of private lands, after which public recreational use may no longer be allowed.

These changes in land ownership patterns and development have created major changes in the region's traditionally used public land base.



Less than a decade ago, people in Southcentral Alaska could go almost anywhere in the region to participate in an unlimited variety of outdoor recreational activities. Today these opportunities are diminishing because public lands are going into private ownership. In addition, development of formerly vacant, unused private land in key locations is blocking access to public areas, eliminating existing outdoor recreational opportunities and resulting in serious conflicts. Trespass situations are occurring on private lands which the public has traditionally used for outdoor recreational purposes. This trespass recreation is becoming a major concern to private landowners as the number of outdoor recreationists and use on private lands increase.

In many areas of Southcentral Alaska, critical parcels of public land are being converted to private ownership. In some instances, a one-acre parcel of privately-owned land can be the key access to hundreds of acres of public land. Without public access, outdoor recreational opportunities can be greatly reduced if not lost. A possible problem is the transfer of 44 million acres of federally-owned public land to Native corporations as authorized in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. An issue has arisen as to whether public access easements being reserved across these lands are adequate to meet long-range public needs. These lands were selected and are being conveyed from federal public domain, general state-selected and tentatively approved lands, state parks and



the national forest system to Alaska Native regional and village corporations and to individuals as Native allotment lands. Many of these selected parcels were integral parts of existing public recreational areas. In the Southcentral Region, more than 60,000 acres of land within Chugach and Kachemak Bay state parks have been selected by Native corporations. In Kachemak Bay State Park, the 20,000-acre selection affects a significant portion of the park's coastline. In Chugach State Park, the selection of 40,000 acres removes entire valleys which are critical for outdoor recreational activities. This selection effectively blocks access to an additional 90,000 acres of public land. In both cases, key access locations are no longer in public ownership, thus blocking hundreds of thousands of acres of land for public recreational opportunities.

Public access to water bodies is another recreational concern. Ownership of the submerged beds of navigable waters within the state is guaranteed to the State of Alaska by the Statehood Act. However, there is still disagreement between the state and federal governments as to the definition of navigability and, thus, to ownership. In order to guarantee public access to and along these water bodies, the state must retain ownership of the submerged lands even if surrounding lands are conveyed into private ownership. Until navigability criteria are agreed upon, and navigability determinations are made by the courts, this access remains in question if the lands go to private ownership and the owner chooses to prohibit or restrict public use.

As public recreational use is displaced from some of these lands, pressures on existing

public lands will increase. Present outdoor recreational opportunities will decrease on lands not included within parks, forests or refuges as population increases, development of lands occurs, wild lands diminish and portions of the public land base are turned over to the private sector. As de facto wild lands gradually are converted to other uses -- such as residential development, farming, logging, mining and industrial development -- recreational uses which are now well dispersed over these lands will become more concentrated on remaining lands. Public outdoor recreational opportunities will depend increasingly upon lands that are set aside and developed for public recreational purposes.

STRATEGY

The Division of Parks must identify key areas for inclusion of the State Park System to help meet the need for maintaining a public recreational land base.

ISSUE: Maintaining the Alaska Recreational Lifestyle

Participation in outdoor recreational activities closely associated with the natural setting (i.e., fishing, exploring historical structures, camping, etc.) has always been a major part of the Alaska lifestyle. The Alaska Public Survey (1979) noted that, in Southcentral Alaska, "to be self reliant" and "recreation opportunities" were the most frequently given reasons for coming to or staying in Alaska. As recently as 1978, an Alaska congressman circulated a questionnaire to which 91 percent of the respondents indicated that one of the things they loved most about Alaska was the opportunity to

enjoy recreation in wild and undeveloped country. It is, in part, the responsibility of the state to insure that the reasons for which people made, or continue to make, Alaska their home are not lost in the years to come. The availability of high quality outdoor recreational experiences must be perpetuated and enhanced throughout the state.

Outdoor recreational experiences that relate to natural resources and which are unique to the Alaska lifestyle should remain available to the public. Hunting, fishing, viewing wildlife, wild food gathering, trapping, gold mining and dog mushing are examples of these experiences. Even with on-going development, Alaskans still enjoy some of the finest wildland, outdoor recreational opportunities in the United States.

STRATEGY

It is recognized that State Park System units in and of themselves cannot insure the maintenance of adequate areas to protect the Alaska lifestyle. However, to the greatest extent possible, areas of traditional recreational use should be established as units of the State Park System.

ISSUE: Loss of Cultural Resources

One outdoor recreational activity enjoyed by many is the exploration of historic villages, mining towns, Russian forts, etc., while learning about Alaska's prehistory, history and various cultures. Cultural resources are being lost or damaged at a significant rate as historic and cultural sites are being developed for uses other than historic preservation. Some of these areas are also in private ownership and thus

outside the scope of public management. There is a need to protect the remaining cultural resources on public lands. When adequately protected, stabilized, rehabilitated and interpreted, they then provide opportunities for outdoor-oriented recreational experiences.

STRATEGY

State Historic Parks and Sites, as a means of protecting cultural resources, should be established to preserve and interpret Southcentral Alaska's cultural heritage.

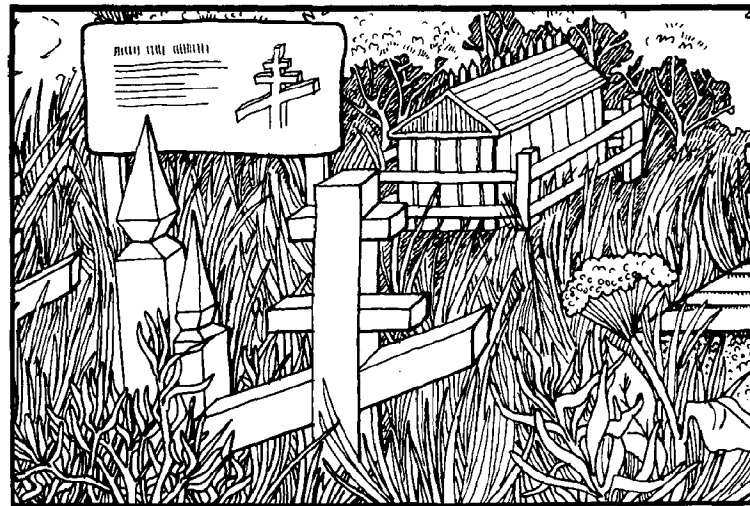


FIGURE 10. Outdoor Recreation Responsibilities of Federal Agencies

Federal Agency	Land Management Responsibilities Supporting Outdoor Recreation	Areas Within The South-central Region	Types of Outdoor Recreational Opportunities Provided
National Park Service	manages areas of national significance with natural, scenic, cultural and recreational values	Denali National Park and Preserve, Kenai Fjords National Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve	dispersed activities; limited developed facilities
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	manages land within national wildlife refuges primarily for the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat and species; uses that do not conflict with habitat and species are generally allowed	Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Tenedni National Wildlife Refuge,	dispersed activities; developed campgrounds, cabins, trails and other facilities
U.S. Forest Service	manages national forest lands for multiple uses (outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife purposes)	Chugach National Forest	dispersed activities; developed campgrounds, cabins, trails and other facilities
Bureau of Land Management	manages public resource lands for multiple uses; provides for recreational facilities and access to lands under its authority	Denali Highway area, Tielcel River area, Bering Glacier area, Portage Flats area	dispersed activities; limited developed facilities
Department of Defense	manages military reservation lands	Ft. Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base	limited general public use; dispersed activities and some developed facilities

Regional Role of the State Park System

Existing Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

The lands in Southcentral Alaska are managed by a number of public agencies and by the private sector. Each entity has a somewhat different role in providing outdoor recreational, cultural, scientific and educational opportunities. Through evaluation of the State Park System's role, it became clear that some opportunities which the Alaska Division of Parks could provide were already being provided by other entities. Certain types of public use opportunities are already provided in a portion of the region, while other public uses are neglected. A review of areas, management responsibilities and the types of recreational opportunities provided by public entities was conducted to help identify more specifically the types of opportunities which should be provided by the Alaska Division of Parks. This review was used to help fulfill outdoor recreation-related needs of the public. Figures 10 and 11 summarize the roles of federal and state agencies in providing outdoor recreation opportunities. Local recreation is oriented towards use of public school facilities and community park sites. Private recreation is service-oriented in areas where there is a concentration of recreational use, or is directed towards special interest groups with a limited clientele (i.e., fly-in guided services and remote wilderness lodges).

The Alaska State Park System Today

As of January 1982, there were 82 park units in the Alaska State Park System. The Southcentral Region contains 53 of the existing units.

Figures 12 and 13 show the types of park units by acreage and number of units. The overall system has an abundance of State Recreation Sites, and the majority of acreage is within the three State Parks. On a subregional basis, primary development of the park system has occurred in those areas closest to Anchorage (the largest concentration of the state's population) and along the state highway system within the Southcentral Region.

Prior to recommending additions or deletions of existing unit types or acquisition and development of new sites, the Southcentral Region was evaluated according to the flowchart and criteria listed in Figure 3. Subregional use preferences and patterns and the roles of the other entities in providing opportunities were carefully evaluated. In some subregions, where the Alaska State Park System is categorizing nearly all its units as State Recreation Sites, other agencies are providing the diversity of opportunities necessary to fulfill the regional needs.

Subregional recommendations have been developed to represent significant resource values of statewide and regional importance; to provide a diversity of outdoor recreational, cultural, scientific and educational opportunities; and to represent the eight units of the State Park System, based on previous information and data.

A compilation of the number of Southcentral state park units recommended for 1982-1992, which includes existing, proposed and future considered units, is shown in Figure 14.

FIGURE 11. Outdoor Recreation Responsibilities of State Agencies

State Agency	Land Management Responsibilities Supporting Outdoor Recreation	Areas Within The South-central Region	Types of Outdoor Recreational Opportunities Provided
Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks	manages all State Park System lands	53 state park units including Denali State Park, Chugach State Park, Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, Captain Cook State Recreation Area, Kachemak Bay State Park	dispersed opportunities; developed facilities
Department of Natural Resources Division of Land and Water	manages general land holdings of the state	the majority of state lands in the region	generally, undeveloped open space
Department of Fish and Game	manages fish and game; coordinates habitat and species management efforts with appropriate federal, state, and local land-managing agencies; acquires critical habitat; manages the non-game program; shares management responsibility for state game refuges with the Division of Land and Water	critical habitat areas, sanctuaries, and state game refuges, including Potter Point, Goose Bay, Palmer Hay Flats, Susitna Flats, Trading Bay	fish- and game- related outdoor recreational activities, including hunting, fishing, viewing of wildlife and photography
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	manages highway rights-of-way, airport lands and sites for DOT/PF facilities	all major highways and roads within the region	roads providing access to outdoor recreational opportunities; scenic overlooks; rest areas; developed bicycle trails; pullouts; and cultural/historic signs

FIGURE 12.
Number of Acres per State Park Unit Type

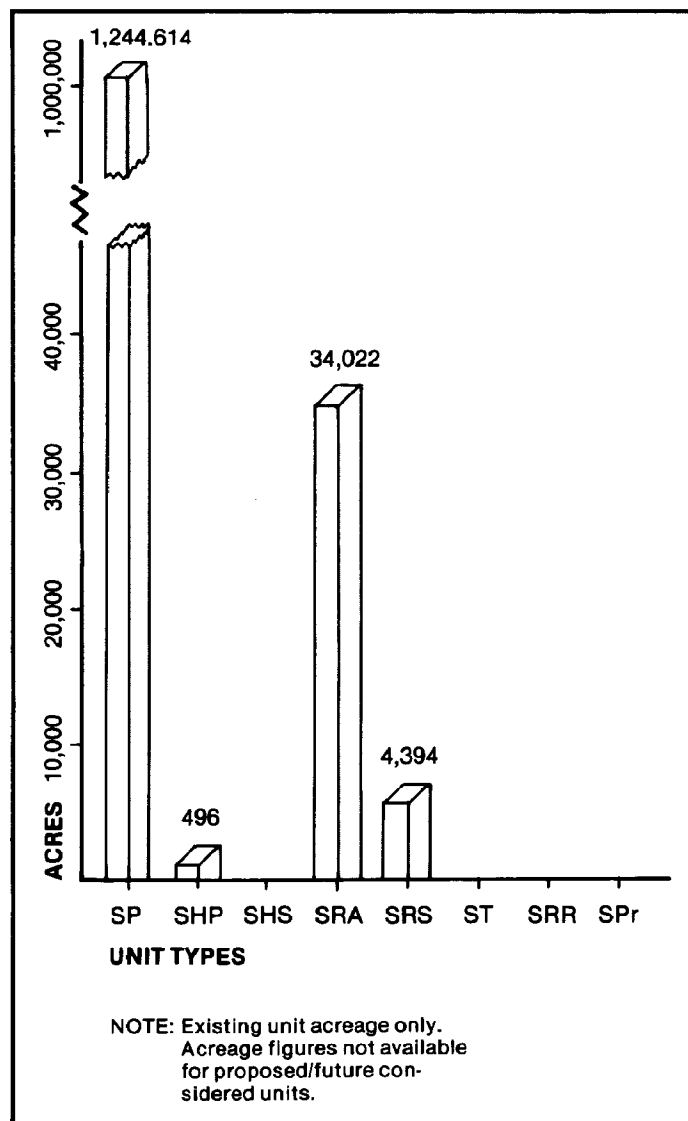
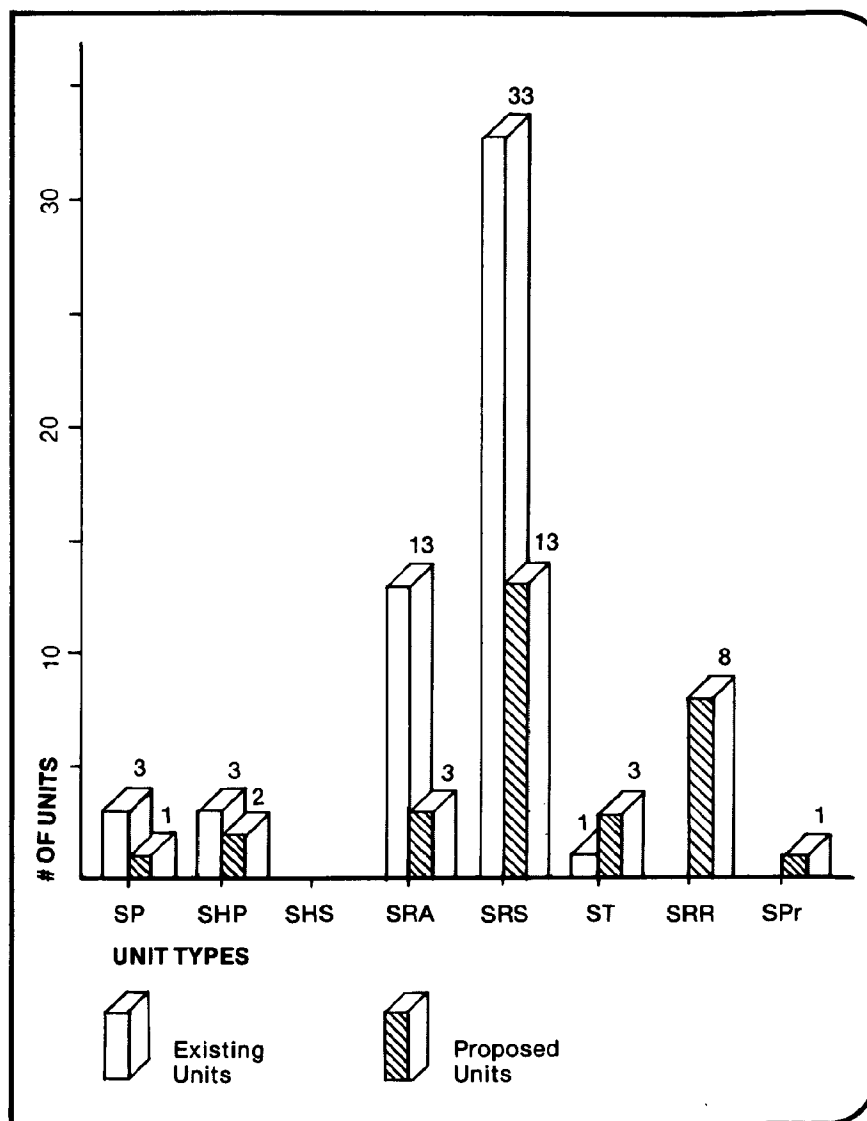


FIGURE 13.
Number of Units per State Park Unit Type



**FIGURE 14. Numbers of Southcentral
State Park Units 1982 - 1992**

SUBREGION	Existing	Proposed	Future Considerations	Total
Copper Basin	8	2	4	14
Mat-Su Valley	16	12	2	30
Anchorage	3	—	—	3
Prince William Sound	2	1	2	5
Kenai	21	13	2	36
Kodiak Islands	3	4	3	10
Total	53	31	13	98

State Park System Future Alternatives

Alternatives Considered

Based upon the preceding evaluation of the regional role of the State Park System, three alternative courses of action for the park system -- for the next ten years -- were developed. Following is a discussion of these alternatives.

A. MAINTAIN AND UPGRADE EXISTING STATE PARK UNITS WHERE NEEDED.

This alternative reflects a conscious decision that the cost of expanding the State Park System, despite its gaps in accommodating all needs, is not a priority at this time. Recreational opportunities not adequately represented within the State Park System could be met by other state and federal agencies, the private sector, local governments or through land management practices.

In alternative A it is recognized that the state has a good park system which meets the basic needs of its citizens and visitors. However, it is not responsive to recreational demands on non-park lands, does not designate future park units, nor does it meet needs beyond those which can be accommodated by existing park units. The idea of "maintaining what you've got" represents an acceptable, short-term approach for meeting basic park needs.

B. MAINTAIN, UPGRADE AND EXPAND EXISTING STATE PARK UNITS WHERE NEEDED AND DESIGNATE NEW UNITS TO MEET EXISTING RECREATIONAL DEMAND.

This alternative recognizes the social, economic, and land-use factors influencing outdoor recreation and the need for active management of recreational resources and activities. It represents a response to the influence of demand and to changes in recreational use patterns. As demand grows, existing park units must be expanded and new units designated if the State Park System is to continue to meet public need. The future availability of a recreational resource, however, is not considered at this time.

Park units will be designated to meet current needs rather than the forecasts and projections of demand and use.

C.
MAINTAIN, UPGRADE AND EXPAND EXISTING STATE PARK UNITS WHERE NEEDED, DESIGNATE NEW UNITS TO MEET EXISTING AND PROJECTED RECREATIONAL DEMAND AND PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF THE SOUTHCENTRAL REGION'S SIGNIFICANT RECREATIONAL, NATURAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES.

This alternative determines what elements are missing from the present State Park System. Under the best of circumstances, the park system must not only meet existing needs, but also be able to reserve lands for future needs and opportunities. In Alternative C an attempt is made to take a look at how well existing state park units meet regional recreation needs and the natural, cultural, scientific and educational values which are represented within the system. Representation of types of recreational opportunities within the system is based on the provision of recreational opportunities by other entities, changes in land use and development, availability of recreational resources, other resource allocations, and those factors influencing public recreation. Alternative C is an aggressive approach to bringing existing state park units up to a level of management and development to meet unsatisfied demand and to provide adequate resource protection and visitor safety. At the same time, the state recognizes the importance of protecting and reserving those public lands necessary for meeting both existing demands and future needs. For an

analysis of alternatives by unit types and implementation costs, see Figures 15 and 16.

Preferred Alternative

Alternative C was selected by the Alaska Division of Parks as the preferred alternative, the one most responsive to the needs of the public for a viable and diverse State Park System in the Southcentral Region. Also recognized in this alternative is the lead role of the state and particularly the Division of Parks in providing recreational opportunities and protecting natural and cultural resource values in the region. The preferred alternative will be put into effect in a series of phases.

FIGURE 15. Analysis of Alternatives by Unit Type

SUBREGION	Number of Units			State Park			State Historic Park			State Historic Site			State Recreation Area			State Recreation Site			State Trail			State Recreation River			State Preserve		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Copper Basin	8	10	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	7	7	8	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
Mat-Su Valley	16	28	29	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	3	4	6	10	12	12	1	2	2	—	6	6	—	—	—
Anchorage	3	3	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prince William Sound	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kenai	21	34	36	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	9	11	12	10	18	18	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kodiak Islands	3	7	10	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southcentral Region Total	53	84	97	3	4	5	3	5	5	—	—	—	13	16	24	33	46	48	1	4	5	—	7	8	—	1	1
<p>Alternative A: existing units Alternative B: existing and proposed units Alternative C: existing, proposed and future considered units</p>																											

FIGURE 16. Analysis of Alternatives by Implementation Costs¹

Alternatives ⁴	Staffing ²						Operations & Management (x \$1,000)			Visitor Services (x \$1,000)			Development ³ (x \$1 million)		
	A		B		C		A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
	S	P	S	P	S	P									
Copper Basin Subregion	4	0	6	2	8	3	49	68	75	33	46	48	1.1	1.8	2.1
Mat-Su Valley Subregion	11	4	16	6	18	7	125	321	376	82	320	344	10.4	19.4	22.2
Anchorage Subregion	5	11	5	11	8	12	183	256	281	111	160	176	5.3	11.3	16.6
Prince William Sound Subregion	0	0	6	2	6	3	0	30	60	0	32	55	0	.7	1.4
Kenai Subregion	9	1	12	4	13	4	144	182	208	97	120	136	9.0	10.4	11.8
Kodiak Islands Subregion	0	1	5	2	5	3	13	60	80	9	40	73	0	1.4	2.2
Southcentral Region Total	20	17	50	27	58	32	514	917	1080	332	718	832	25.8	45.0	56.3
<p>S: seasonal P: permanent Alternative A: existing units Alternative B: existing and proposed units Alternative C: existing, proposed and future considered units</p> <p>1. Cost figures are in 1981 dollars with no adjustments for inflation or contingency factors 2. Staffing includes field staff only (field supervisors, rangers, maintenance workers, laborers). It does not include youth employment, YACC, or YCC programs 3. Development does not include acquisition costs, equipment costs, or special project costs. Figures only include basic level of services and facilities. 4. Figures for Alternative A represent fiscal year 1982 budget and CIP catalog 5. These figures are estimates for full implementation of alternatives and therefore would be lower for partial or phased implementation.</p>															



Recommendations

Public Response to Draft Recommendations

A brochure questionnaire was sent to various communities throughout the Southcentral Region to give respondents the opportunity to comment on draft recommendations for existing, proposed, and future considerations of State Park System units.

Respondents were asked to comment on whether or not the Alaska Division of Parks should be putting more effort into existing or proposed/future park system units. A preference for placing more effort into existing park system units was expressed by 42 percent of respondents, while 30 percent preferred that more effort be placed on proposed park units. Eleven percent said that effort should be placed on both existing and proposed park units. Seventeen percent of the respondents said neither or did not respond.

When asked if they agreed with Alaska Division of Parks' choices of recommended areas for state park units, both existing and proposed, 51 percent of the respondents agreed, 28 percent disagreed, and 21 percent did not respond. Respondents were also asked if they agreed with the recommendations made for each state park unit. Forty-five percent agreed, while 27 percent disagreed, and 28 percent did not respond.

Respondents were asked to prioritize the recommendations for both existing and proposed/future units in each subregion. Following is the first priority listed by the most respondents.

EXISTING - First priority (top three)

- COPPER BASIN SUBREGION
 - Lake Louise SRA
 - Little Nelchina SRS
 - Worthington Glacier SRS
- MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY SUB-REGION
 - Denali SP
 - Independence Mine SHP
 - Matanuska Glacier SRS
- ANCHORAGE SUBREGION
 - Chugach SP
- PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SUBREGION
 - Blueberry Lake SRS
 - Valdez Glacier SRS
- KENAI SUBREGION
 - Kachemak Bay SP
 - Iditarod Trail
 - Caines Head SRA - Morgan's Landing SRA (tie)
- KODIAK ISLANDS SUBREGION
 - Fort Abercrombie SHP
 - Pasagshak SRS
 - Buskin River SRS

PROPOSED/FUTURE - First priority (top three)

- COPPER BASIN SUBREGION
 - Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
 - Susitna Lake-Tyone River SRA
 - Eagle ST
- MATANUSKA-SUSITNA VALLEY SUB-REGION
 - Hatcher Pass SRA
 - Talkeetna SRR
 - Montana Creek SRS
- ANCHORAGE SUBREGION
 - (There were no proposed or future recommendations for this subregion.)

- PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SUBREGION
Marine Park System
- KENAI SUBREGION
Kenai River (Proposed Additions)
St. Augustine Island SPR
Homer Spit
- KODIAK ISLANDS SUBREGION
Woody Island SRS
Cape Chiniak SRA
Shuyak Island SP

When asked should additional public outdoor recreational opportunities be provided by either the state government or local governments, eight percent of the respondents said local government, 22 percent said state, 45 percent said both, 15 percent said neither and 10 percent did not answer the question. Respondents were then asked if they supported an increase in recreational opportunities and services if it meant increased costs. Eighty percent of the respondents favored an increase in opportunities despite increased costs, while eight percent did not and 12 percent did not answer the question. Respondents were next asked whether these costs should be funded by legislative appropriations, user fees or both. Thirty-two percent favored legislative appropriations, nine percent user fees, 53 percent legislative appropriations and user fees and six percent did not answer the question.

The public was given a space on the brochure/response form to say exactly what they thought about the park system. Following are some of the comments received:

- Acquire land before lost.
- State doesn't need any land.
- The state should take responsibility and

control of all lands that the state is entitled to under the U.S. Constitution and the equal footing act.

- I think your recommendations stink; parks have put thousands of farmers, miners, loggers, etc., out of business . . . most produce 0 for this countries (sic) economy or G.N.P.
- More rangers are needed on the Kenai.
- Access to Matanuska Glacier.
- Access to Eagle River.
- Work on what you have . . . there are as many proposed units as existing ones. Are you satisfied with what you are doing with what you already have?
- Kenai Peninsula is overdeveloped now.
- Please acquire as much new land as possible - FAST . . . your agency should be ten times larger in manpower and budget.
- I want to see something happening with Kachemak Bay State Park.
- Develop more access with less (sic) facilities.
- No campground or tourist facilities over two acres.
- The state park system is designed and run by people with a wilderness preservation mentality.
- Transferring recreation areas to local government is a false method of economizing.
- Good job.
- I am very disappointed to see you are not significantly expanding the State Trail System.
- Generally you are on the right track. You should be putting more effort and dollars into trails.
- I think it is a well thought out plan that will meet a variety of recreational needs.

-
- The total number of proposals is a bit ambitious.
 - You are typical blind bureaucrats building up your phony dynasties and wasting Alaska's resources to pleasure the urbanites here. . . .
 - How many times do you have to survey the public to get the idea recreation development is the game, not preservation and wilderness?
 - Generally, I think your department is doing a good job. Campgrounds are clean and well maintained. I use them a lot and appreciate it.

Final Recommendations

Implicit in the recommendations for the State Park System is a need for meeting unsatisfied recreational demands; recognition that significant cultural and natural resources should be protected and managed; acknowledgement that the State Park System should respond to those issues affecting the recreational land base; and the need for the park system to be responsive to regional and subregional attractions and to population and land base changes.

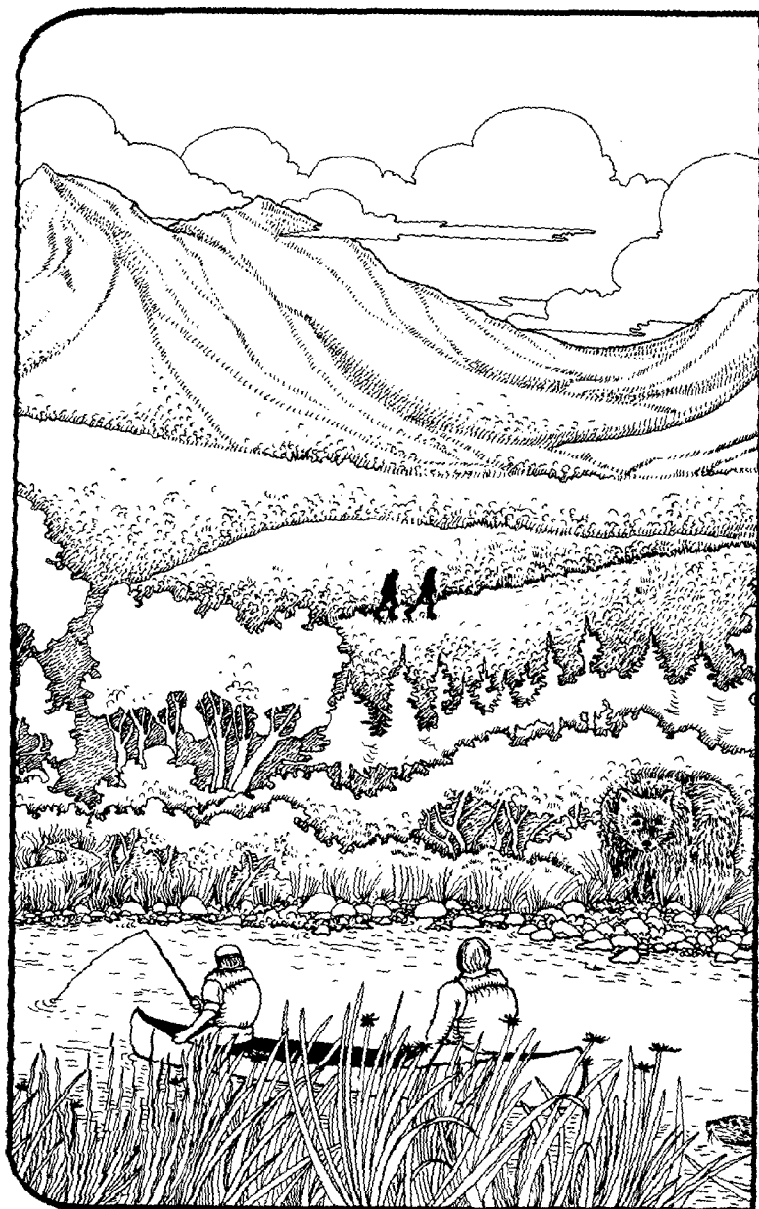
The identification of areas for inclusion in the State Park System includes only those areas which meet state park criteria as defined in the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework. The proposed and existing park units in this plan are identified in recognition of the state's commitment to outdoor recreational, cultural and natural resource protection through the park system. Other state lands which have important public recreational resources will continue to be managed by the Division of Land

and Water Management as part of a multiple-use management program, with public recreation as a primary element, or will be incorporated into private land use. These lands will not, however, be part of the state's park system. The designation of areas within the State Park System is balanced by other agencies and the private sector, the commitment and designation of other lands in the state for resource development and private land ownership.

To the citizen and visitor to the state, a balanced State Park System is one which contains park units that represent the State's significant recreational, natural, cultural, scientific and educational resources, and contains those areas that meet the outdoor recreation needs being expressed by the public. The following are considered as important elements for representation in the Southcentral Region State Park System:

1.
Road system and other transportation-related influences which provide access to natural and cultural resource attractions to and recreational opportunities. Roadside recreational sites are well represented within the State Park System in the Southcentral Region, and the emphasis should be on upgrading or expanding existing units as well as providing new units in response to anticipated demands in the future.

2.
Rivers are a key recreational attraction in Alaska and particularly in the Southcentral Region. There is a real need to include in the park system a representation of the region's significant recreational and free-flowing rivers.



3. Lake systems associated with a diversity of upland recreational opportunities are in short supply and are inadequately represented in the Southcentral Region of the State Park System. The Nancy Lake lake system is one of the few lake systems represented which provide for a diversity of recreational opportunities.

4. Trails are of increasing importance to the public. Trail-related activities have shown the greatest increase in recreational use of any single outdoor recreational activity. A system of designated historic and recreational trail corridors is poorly represented in the Southcentral Region.

5. The cultural/historical character of Alaska is a major feature of interest to Alaskans and visitors. Representation of significant cultural and historic features provides a means of preserving Alaska's heritages and forges a link in Alaska's sense of identity. Within the Southcentral Region of the State Park System, only three state historic parks are currently represented.

6. Coastal areas and the marine environment of the state represent some of Alaska's real natural "jewels." Coastal areas on the Kenai Peninsula are represented by several small recreation sites and Kachemak Bay State Park. Kodiak Island and Prince William Sound areas offer some of the most significant examples of the state's coastal environment and should be represented within the State Park System.

7. Alpine environments, representing the scenic

and spectacular character of Alaska, provide a diversity of recreational opportunities. Chugach, Kachemak Bay and Denali state parks are important examples of such environments within the Southcentral Region. Other areas such as Hatcher Pass, Gunsight Mountain, Mt. Susitna and Keystone Canyon/Thompson Pass, offer outstanding opportunities to round out the park system.

8.

User interests in key recreational, cultural, and natural features, as expressed through public preferences and participation rates, provide a real measure of the adequacy of the State Park System in meeting recreational demands. Thus, proximity of areas to population centers, the degree of accessibility, the diversity of experiences provided, the availability of leisure time, traditional recreational use habits and new activities, and other influences must be considered heavily in designing a well-balanced State Park System in cooperation with other agencies, local governments and the private sector.

In recommending those areas which should be represented within the Southcentral Region of the State Park System, it is not necessary that the system represent all things to all people or represent fully all elements listed above. Certain features will be best represented by other public and private programs. The approach taken has been to look for gaps in the regional representation of recreational, natural, cultural, scientific and educational resources with significance and to identify potential park units in consideration of park system criteria.

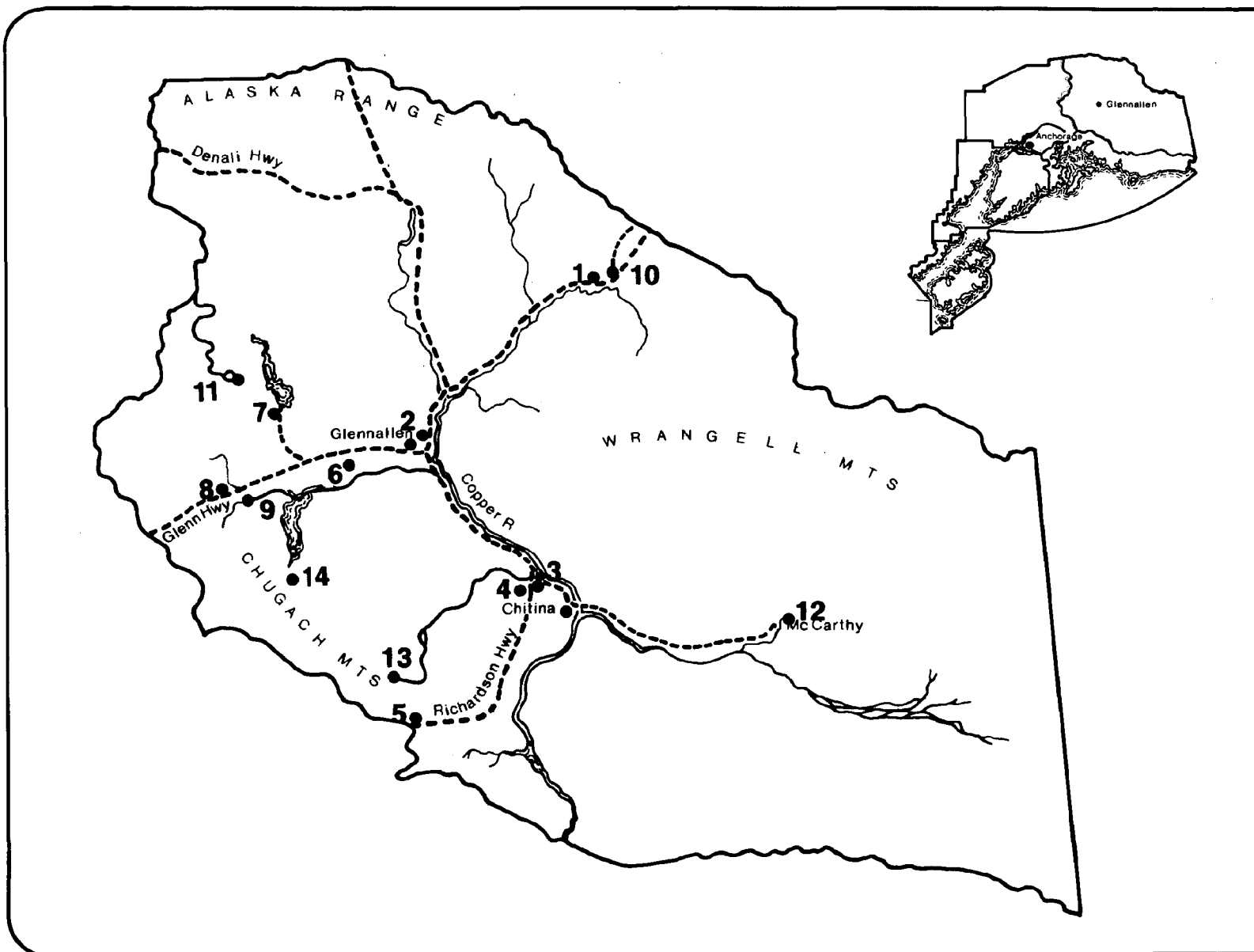
Following are recommendations for existing and

proposed State Park System units within the Southcentral Region, organized by subregion. Preceding each subregional list of recommendations is a review of the subregion's character, and its issues, public preferences and recreational opportunities. Collectively, the subregional recommendations comprise the recommendations for the Alaska State Park System in Southcentral Alaska and are intended to provide a balanced State Park System within the region.

Listing of phases will also be shown with each recommendation to identify the priority of the time frame for acquisition, planning, development and management of state park units. Consideration will first be given to Phase I recommendations followed by Phase II, then Phase III.

NOTE: Acreage figures listed in the recommendations are approximate, since exact figures will be derived at the time of purchase.

These are the recommendations as they appear at the time of publication. All recommendations may change once a park management plan is developed for the unit.



Copper Basin Subregion

1. Porcupine Creek SRS
2. Dry Creek SRS
3. Squirrel Creek SRS
4. Little Tonsina SRS
5. Worthington Glacier SRS
6. Tolsona Creek SRS
7. Lake Louise SRA
8. Little Nelchina SRS
9. Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
10. Eagle ST
11. Susitna Lake-Tyone River SRA
12. McCarthy SRS
13. Tonsina SRR
14. Tazlina Lake SRA

ISSUES

- extensive private land ownership adjacent to primary road system
- no local, organized government with recreational responsibility
- undeveloped tourism potential

PUBLIC REFERENCES

- maintain rural lifestyle
- minimize impact of tourism/recreation on local residents
- provide river and trail-oriented recreational activities
- continue access to public lands for hunting and fishing
- provide more family-oriented recreational areas
- seek cooperative management of recreational opportunities

OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- National Park Service: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve - dispersed, backcountry
- Bureau of Land Management: Gulkana River, Denali Highway - dispersed, backcountry
- Private: guiding services and lodges, limited recreational/commercial developments and fee areas

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

- expansive landscape
- recreational opportunities suitable for winter
- accessible lakes and streams
- fish and wildlife
- access to public lands
- scenic attractions
- historic/cultural resources

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- EXISTING: limited small recreational sites along the primary road system to serve the traveling public
- NEEDED: river and trail units, recreational areas with a diversity of opportunities, family recreational opportunities, cooperative management of roadside recreation

Copper Basin Subregion Recommendations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	50	III I	Acquisition: if management continues, obtain 240 acres of adjoining state land by administrative action Special Management Considerations: determine cost effectiveness of maintaining the area
Dry Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	51	I	Special Management Considerations: monitor walk-in camping use
Squirrel Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	52	I III III	Acquisition: resolve land ownership Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan
Little Tonsina State Recreation Site (existing)	53	III	Special Management Considerations: enact management practices to minimize bear problems
Worthington Glacier State Recreation Site (existing)	54	II I I	Acquisition: obtain by administrative action, 480 acres of adjoining state land of glacier terminus Development: complete currently funded development projects Special Management Considerations: expand visitor information program
Tolsona Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	55	II III	Planning: prepare management plan to include reloca- tion of campground and develop trail system Development: revegetate existing site and implement management plan
Lake Louise State Recreation Area (existing)	56	II I I I	Acquisition: obtain 300 acres of federal surplus lands and Boy Scout property by administrative action Planning: prepare feasibility study to evaluate ad- joining lands for recreational opportunities Development: complete currently funded development projects Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with local landowners

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Little Nelchina State Recreation Site (existing)	57	I I I I	Acquisition: obtain 620 acres of state land by administrative action Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: cooperate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on Nelchina Basin land management planning
Nelchina-Tazlina State Recreation River (proposed)	58	I I I I	Acquisition: seek legislative designation and work cooperatively with Ahtna Corporation Planning: prepare river management plan Development: implement management plan and work cooperatively with DOT/PF on highway boat launch Special Management Considerations: establish staffing and work cooperatively with Ahtna Corporation and ADF&G
Eagle State Trail (proposed)	58	II II III II	Acquisition: locate and designate trail; negotiate cooperative management agreements Planning: prepare trail management plan Development: implement trail management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Susitna Lake-Tyone River State Recreation Area (future consideration)	59	}	These areas may be included as units of the State Park System depending on recreational needs, use preferences and upon available funding.
McCarthy State Recreation Site (future consideration)	59		
Tonsina State Recreation River (future consideration)	59		
Tazlina Lake State Recreation Area (future consideration)	59		

PORCUPINE CREEK SRS

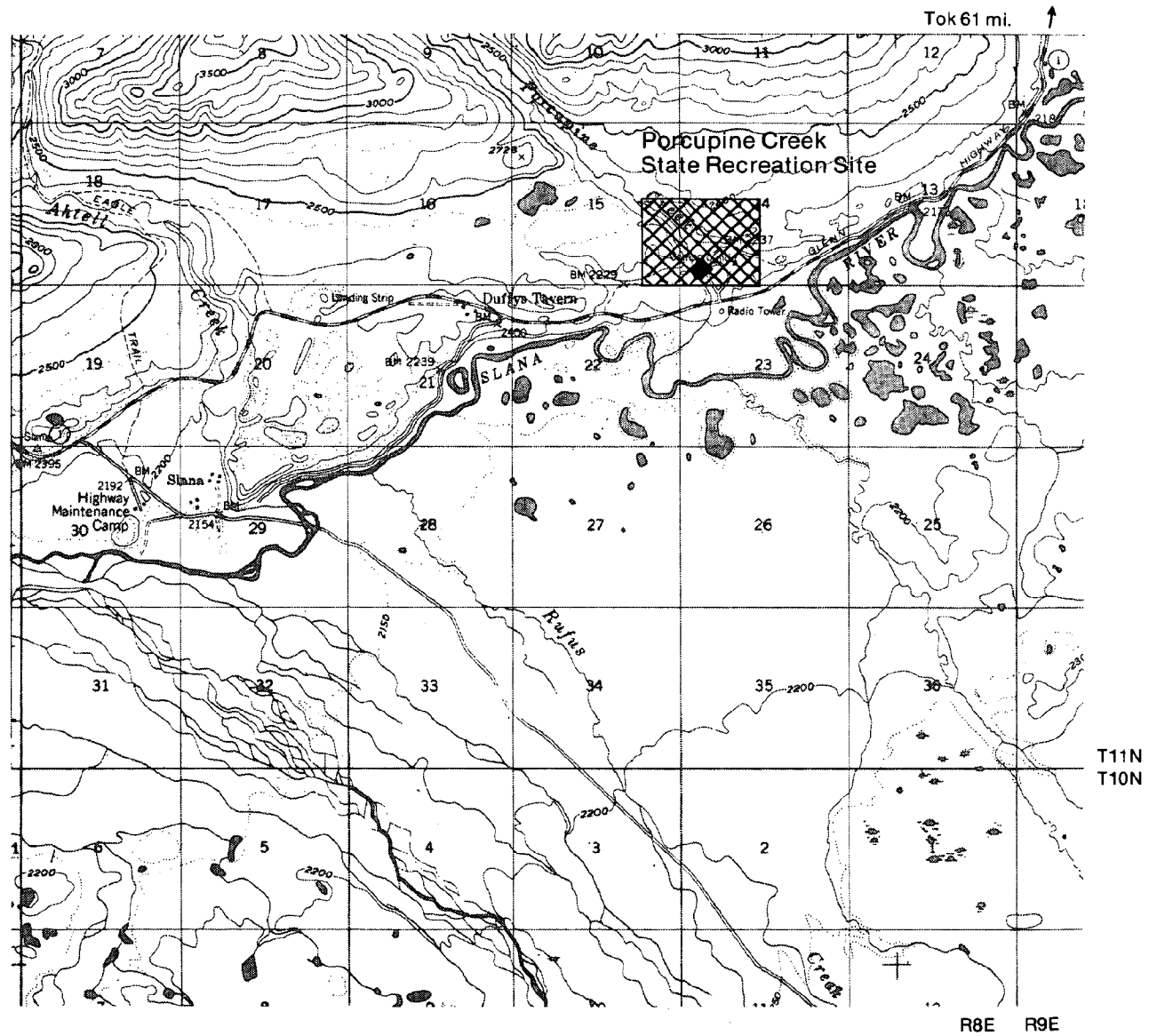
COPPER BASIN

USGS Maps:
Nabesna C6

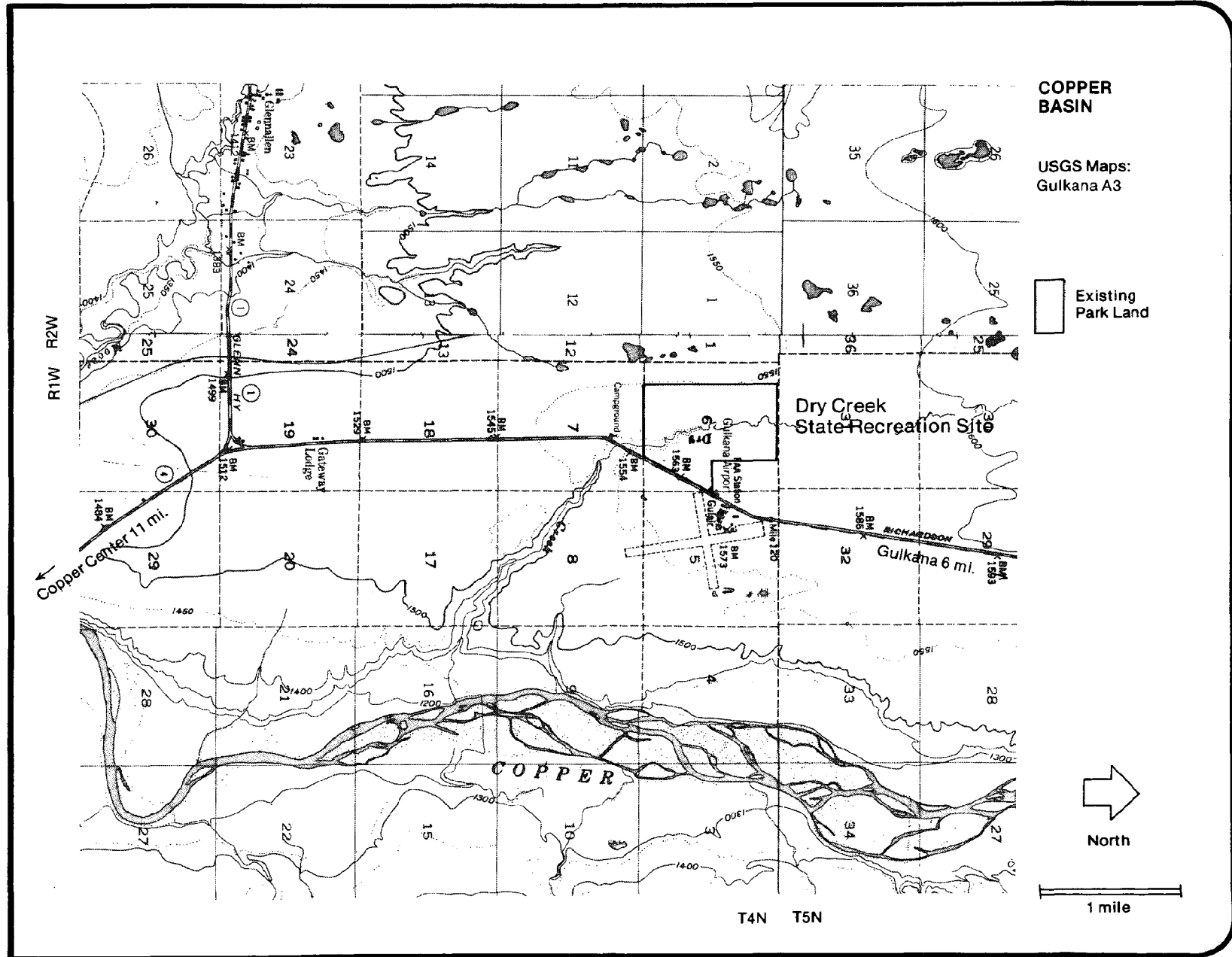
-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land



1 mile



DRY CREEK SRS




SQUIRREL CREEK SRS

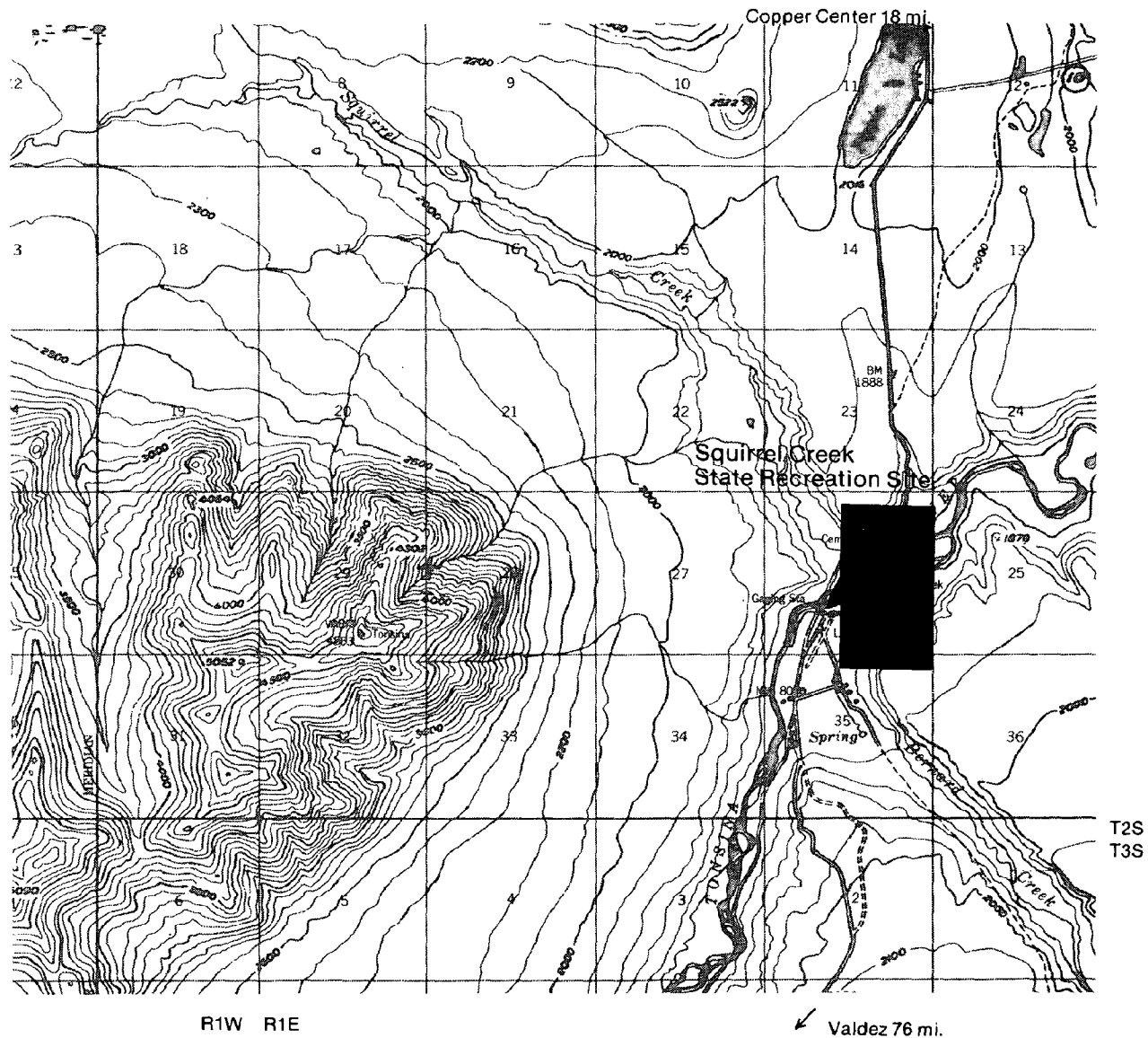
**COPPER
BASIN**

USGS Maps:
Valdez C4

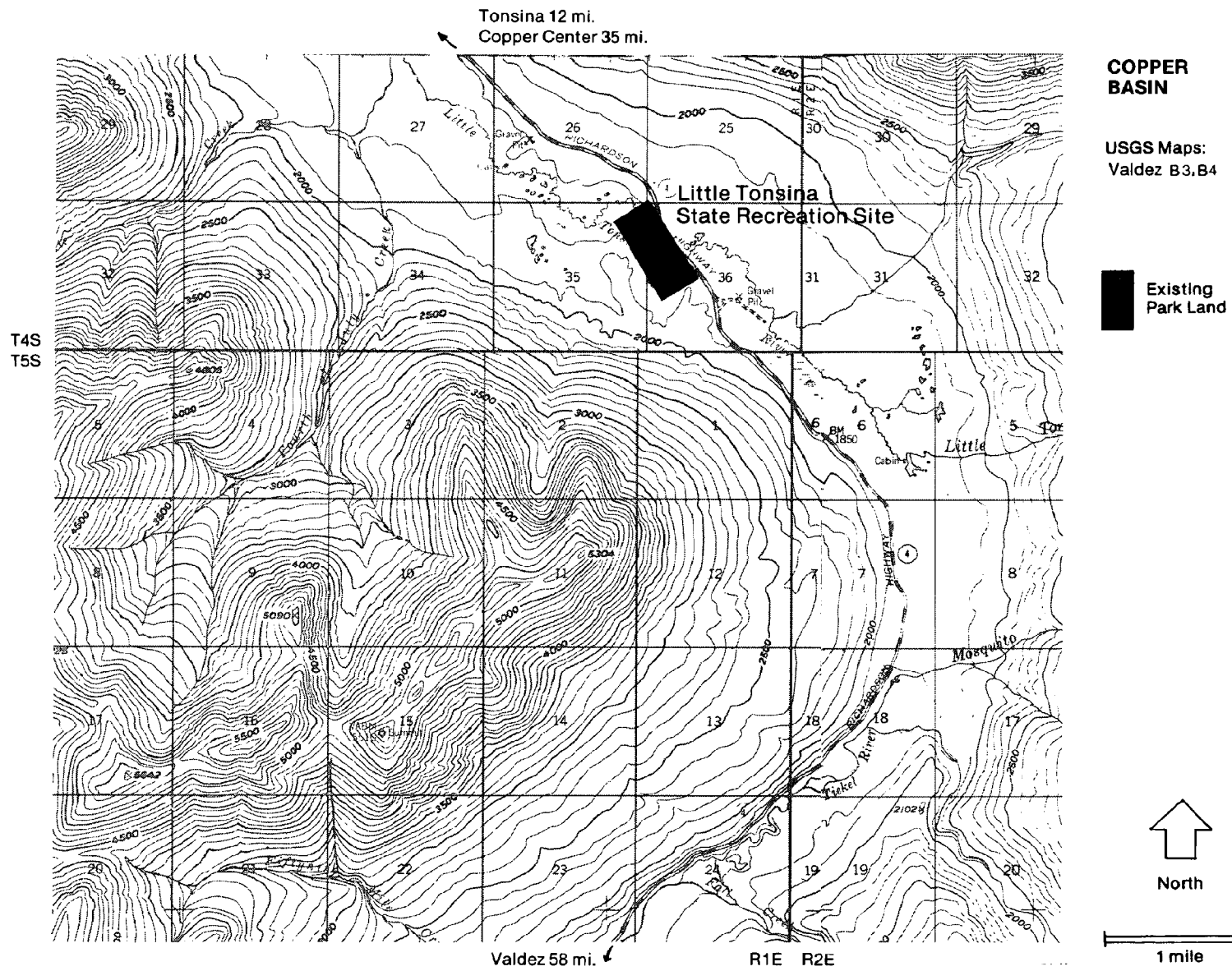
 Existing
Park Land




1 mile



LITTLE TONSINA SRS



WORTHINGTON GLACIER SRS

COPPER BASIN

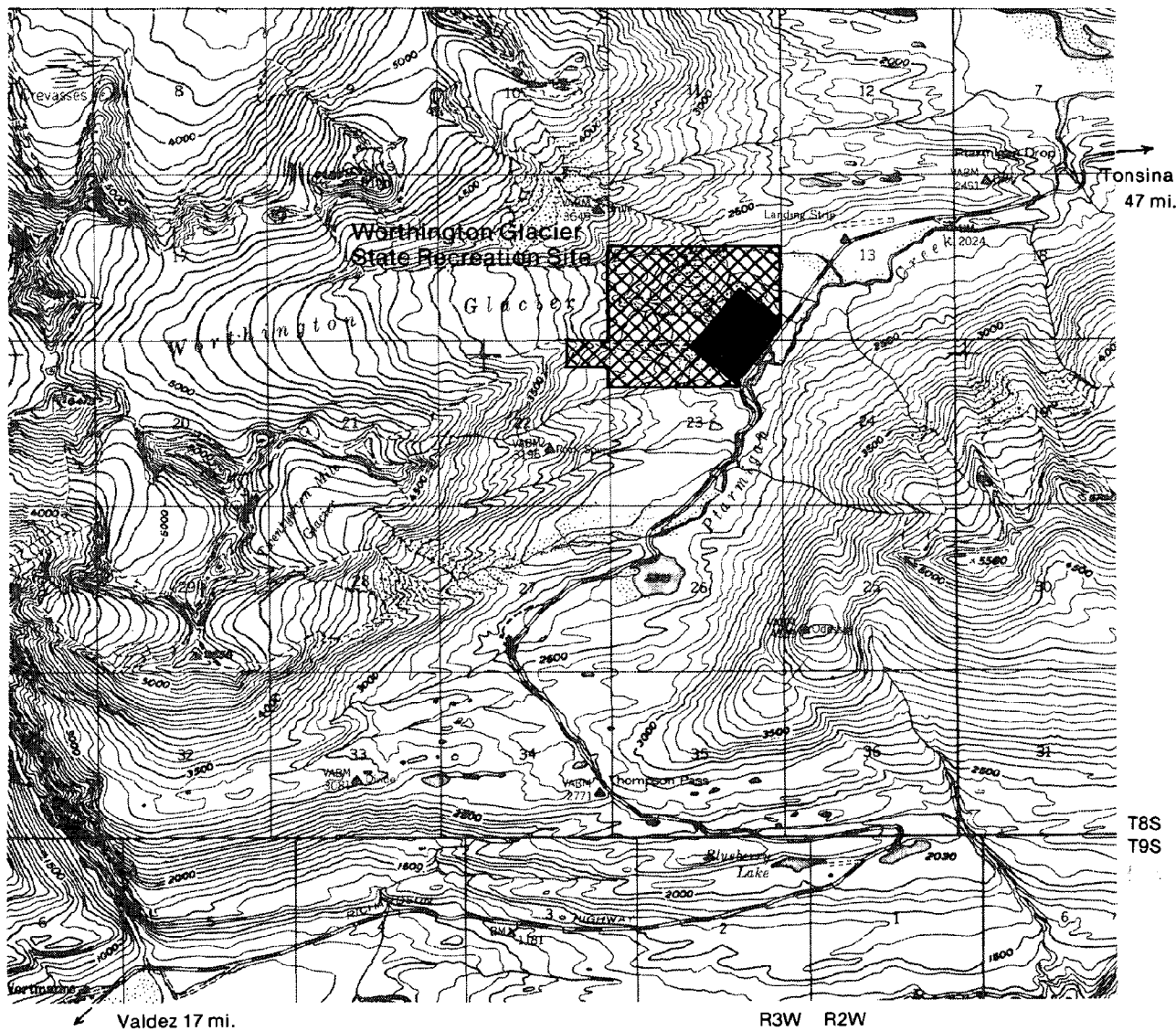
USGS Maps:
Valdez A5

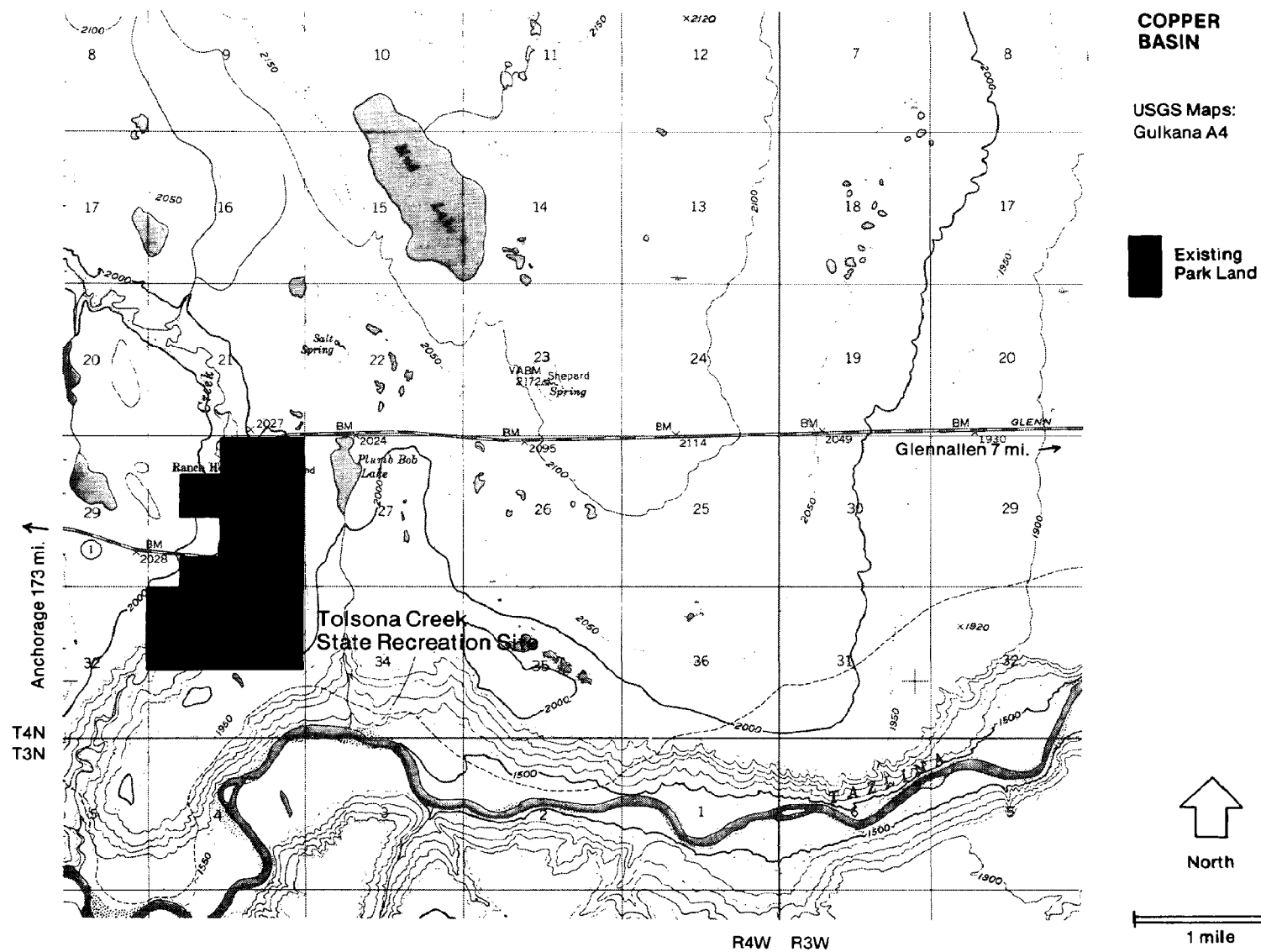
-  Existing
Park Land
-  Proposed
Acquisition of
Public Land



North

1 mile



TOLSONA CREEK SRS

COPPER BASIN
USGS Maps:
Gulkana

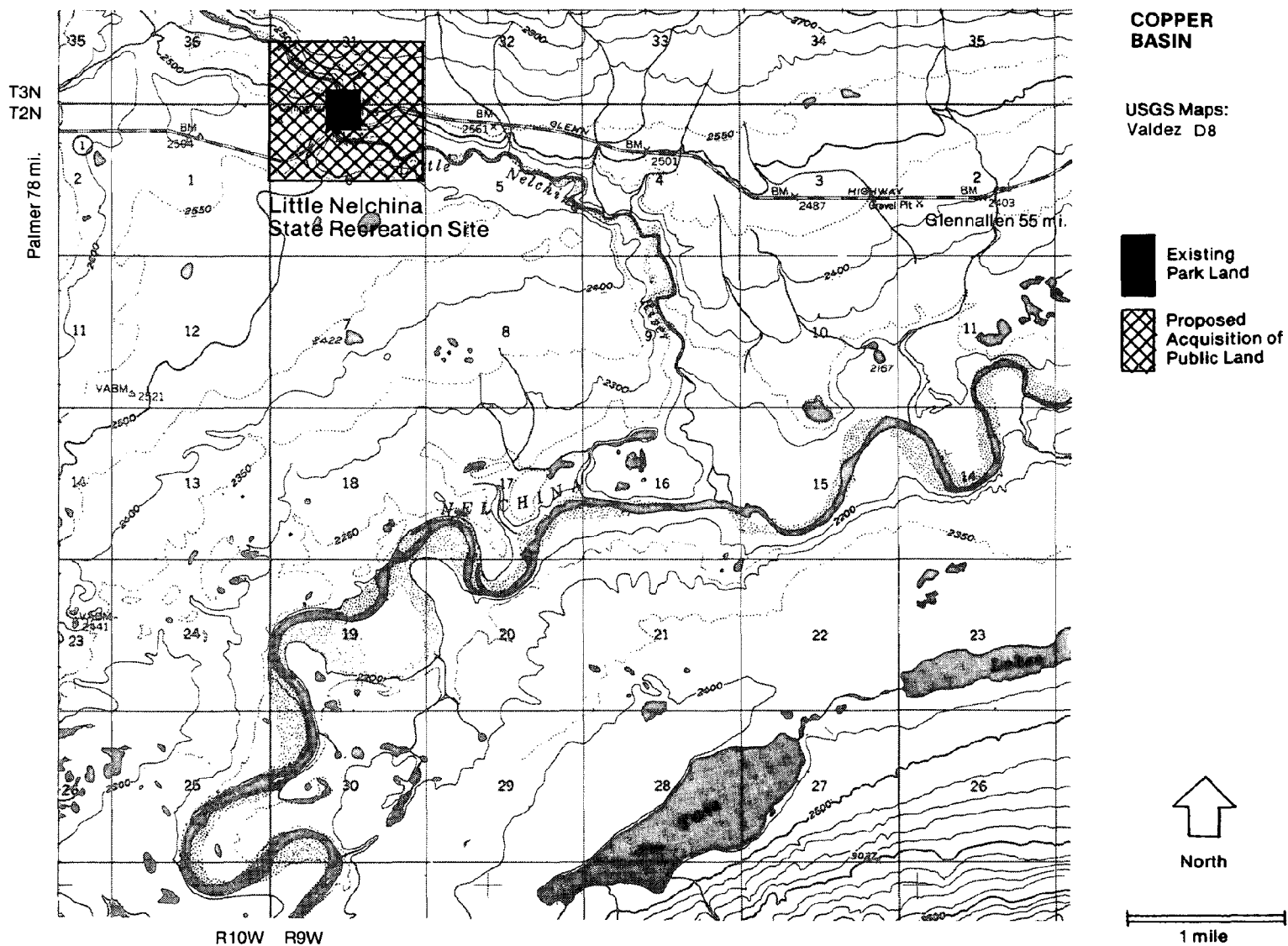
Existing Park Land
Proposed Study Area

North

6 miles

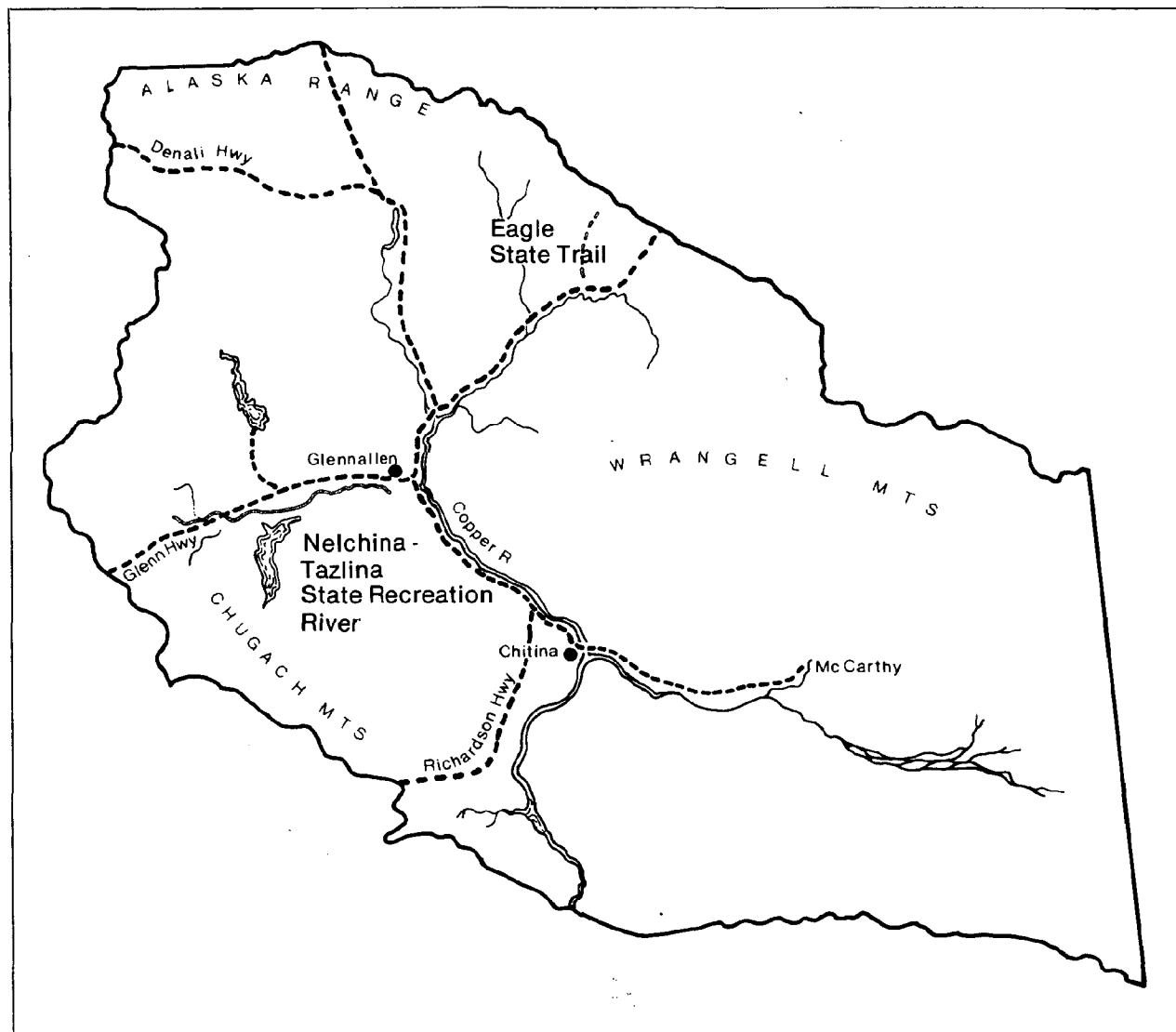
T9N T8N T7N
R7W R8W R9W

LITTLE NELCHINA SRS

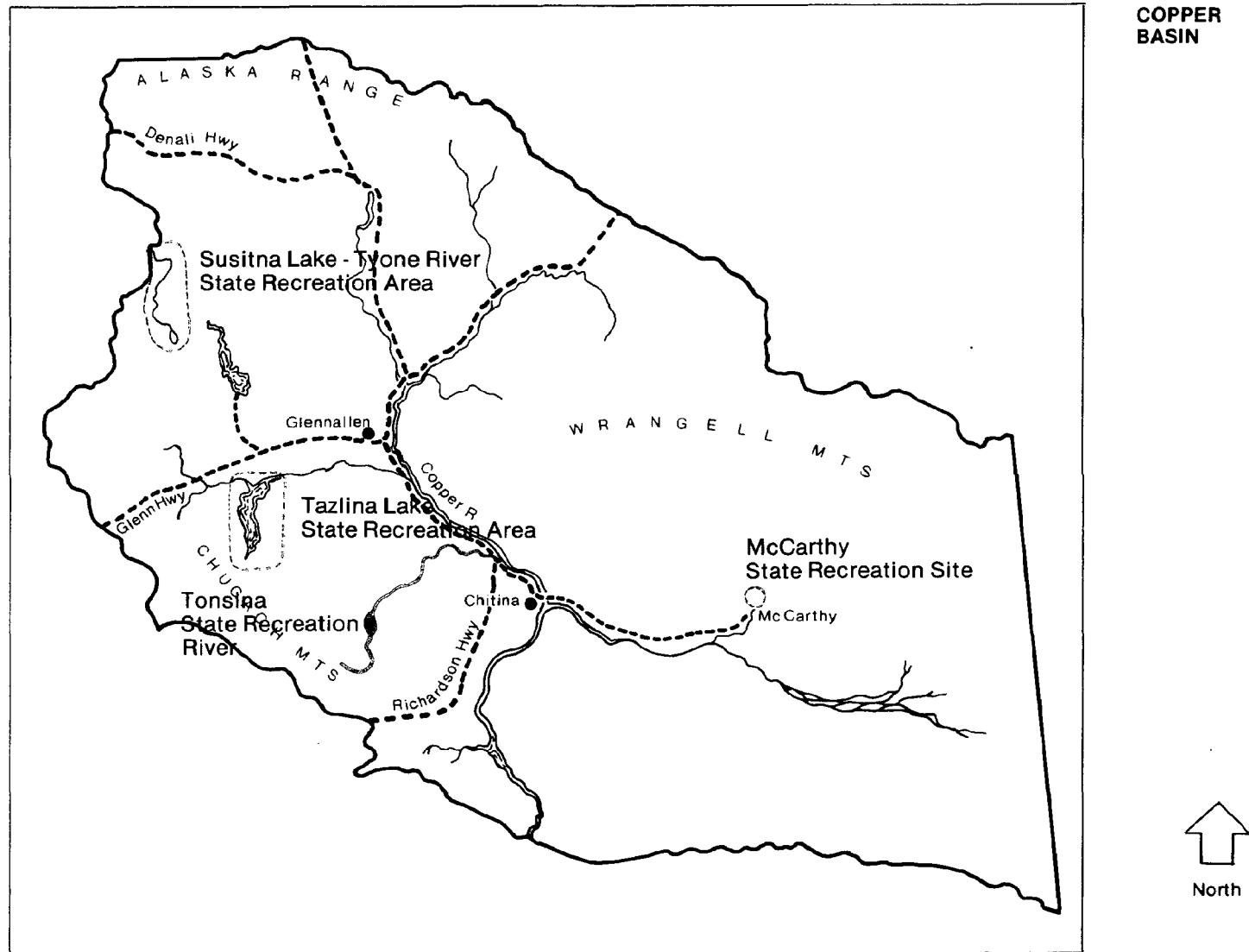


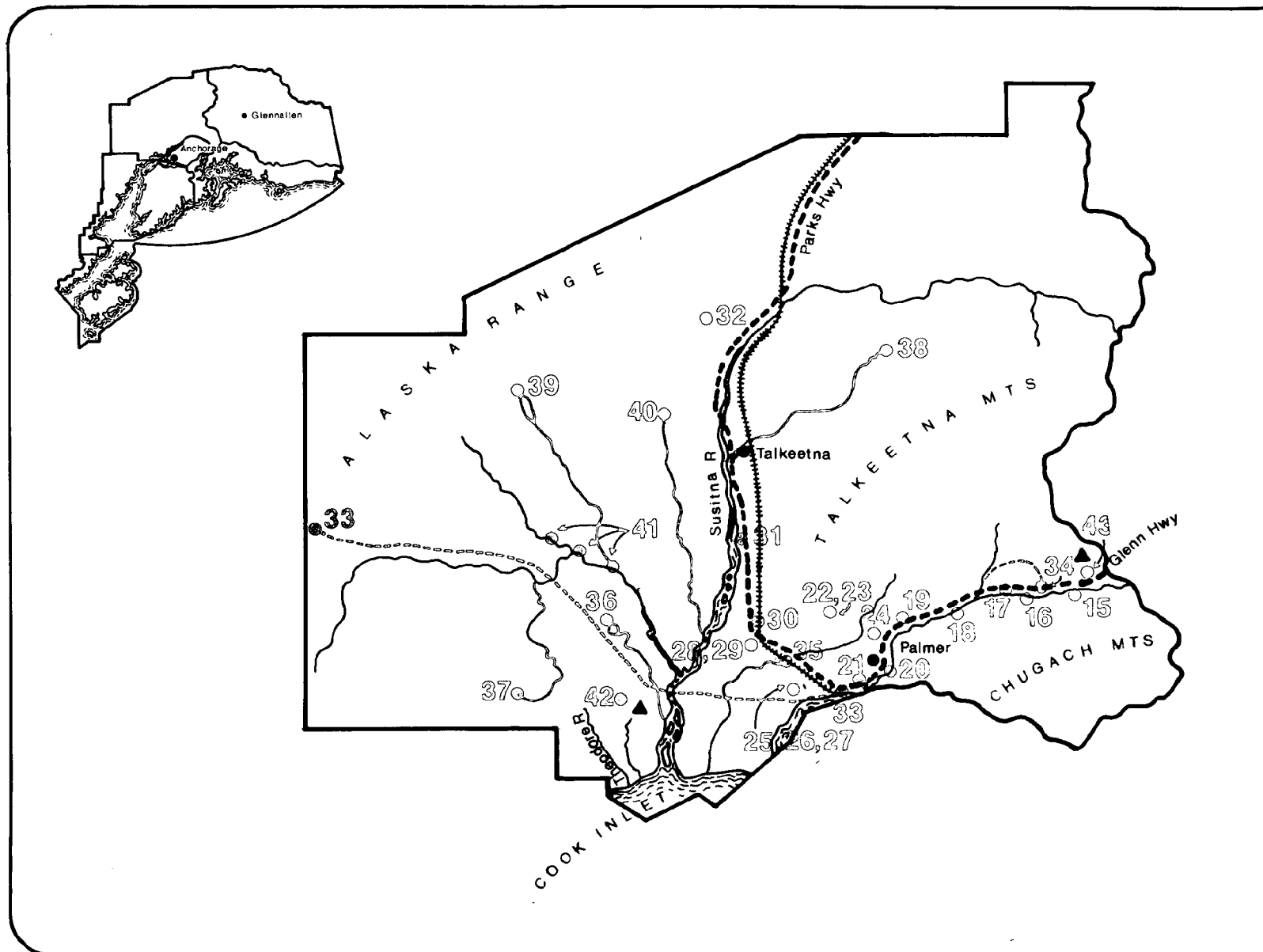
STATE RECREATION RIVERS & STATE TRAILS

COPPER
BASIN



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS





Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion

15. Matanuska Glacier SRS
16. Long Lake SRS
17. Bonnie Lake SRS
18. King Mountain SRS
19. Moose Creek SRS
20. Matanuska Valley Colony Farm SHP
21. Kepler-Bradley SRA
22. Independence Mine SHP
23. Hatcher Pass SRA
24. Finger Lake SRS
25. Rocky Lake SRS
26. Big Lake (East) SRS
27. Big Lake (South) SRS
28. Nancy Lake SRS
29. Nancy Lake SRA
30. Willow Creek SRA
31. Montana Creek SRS
32. Denali SP
33. Iditarod Trail
34. Chickaloong ST
35. Little Susitna SRR
36. Alexander Creek SRR
37. Talachulitna SRR
38. Talkeetna SRR
39. Lake Creek SRR
40. Kroto Creek SRR
41. Yentna River SRSs
42. Mt. Susitna SRA
43. Gunsight Mountain SRA

ISSUES

- rapid transfer of accessible public lands to private ownership
- overcrowding of existing recreational areas and facilities
- impact of recreational area users on local residents and their properties
- tourism development potential

PUBLIC PREFERENCES

- develop trail and river programs
- expand and upgrade existing recreational facilities
- provide close-to-home recreational opportunities
- minimize adverse public recreation impacts
- seek cooperative agency management of recreational opportunities
- provide Alaska lifestyle opportunities
- borough needs to execute recreational authority

OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- State: Palmer Hayflats, Susitna area, and Goose Bay state game refuges - dispersed, undeveloped recreation
- National Park Service: Denali NP - campgrounds and dispersed recreation
- Borough: some dedicated park areas
- Community: some local park and recreational programs and facilities
- Private: guiding services, commercial recreational developments

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

- accessible alpine areas
- accessible lakes and rivers
- variety of landforms and vegetation
- cultural/historic resources
- fish and wildlife

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- EXISTING: historic park, fresh water lake system, large natural areas, small roadside campgrounds
- NEEDED: trail and river units, alpine areas, access to fishing streams, dispersal of fishing pressures, complete implementation of Denali Park Management Plan developments

Matanuska-Susitna Valley Subregion Recommendations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Matanuska Glacier State Recreation Site (existing)	68	I	Development: complete implementation of existing site plan
Long Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	69	II	Acquisition: seek addition, by legislative designation, of state lands to the south
		II	Planning: prepare management plan associated with the Glenn Highway realignment
		II	Development: implement management plan development phases; rehabilitate and landscape
Bonnie Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	69	II	Acquisition: seek transfer to the borough for local recreational purposes
		III	Planning: tie into the Chickaloon Trail system and upper Bonnie Lake
		III	Development: revegetate and landscape
King Mountain State Recreation Site (existing)	70	III	Planning: define floodplain hazards through management plan
		III	Development: evaluate effectiveness and need for flood control measures
Moose Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	71	II	Acquisition: add, by administrative action, 160 acres of uplands and river corridor
		III	Planning: as part of the management plan, assess impact of the Glenn Highway realignment
		I	Development: implement existing site plan
Matanuska Valley Colony Farm State Historic Park (proposed)	72	II	Acquisition: obtain private land (40 acres)
		II	Planning: prepare management plan to identify cultural resource values
		III	Development: develop working farm with historical setting
		III	Special Management Considerations: consider cooperative management options with private individuals

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Kepler-Bradley State Recreation Area (existing)	72	I I I	Acquisition: obtain 230 acres of public and private land pursuant to legislative direction; obtain cooperative agreement with the University of Alaska Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan
Independence Mine State Historic Park (existing)	73	II I I I	Acquisition: seek legislative addition of adjoining state land to encompass upper Fishhook Creek watershed Planning: complete management plan to identify historic preservation and visitor use opportunities Development: stabilize, restore adaptively for reuse or arrest decay, based upon management plan Special Management Considerations: protect historic resources; establish visitor information program
Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area (proposed)	74	I I I	Acquisition: seek park unit legislative designation based upon results of a cooperative interagency study Planning: participate in cooperative interagency planning team to establish land use allocations Development: develop according to the management plan
Finger Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	75	III III III	Acquisition: seek transfer to the borough for community recreational purposes Development: rehabilitate and upgrade facilities Special Management Considerations: relocate state park headquarters now in unit
Rocky Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	76	III II III	Acquisition: seek transfer to the borough for community recreational purposes Development: rehabilitate and upgrade facilities Special Management Considerations: consider concession operation

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Big Lake (East) State Recreation Site (existing)	76	III II III	Acquisition: seek transfer to the borough for community recreational purposes Development: rehabilitate and upgrade facilities Special Management Considerations: consider concession operation
Big Lake (South) State Recreation Site (existing)	76	III II III	Acquisition: seek transfer to the borough for community recreational purposes Development: rehabilitate and upgrade facilities Special Management Considerations: consider concession operation
Nancy Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	77	III	Planning: follow Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Management Plan
Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (existing)	77	I I I I	Acquisition: obtain key inholdings on willing-seller basis (150 acres); obtain cooperative agreement with the borough for trail corridor on north boundary Planning: complete update of management plan Development: implement development phases of management plan Special Management Considerations: expand winter recreational opportunities and staffing
Willow Creek State Recreation Area (existing & proposed)	78	I I I I	Acquisition: seek cooperative agreement with the borough for lands along the creek by legislative designation Planning: complete management plan Development: upgrade existing site; complete engineering feasibility study from road to river mouth with additional facilities Special Management Considerations: address river management problems

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Montana Creek State Recreation Site (proposed)	79	II II II II	Acquisition: obtain (145 acres) private and public lands according to legislative direction Planning: prepare management plan Development: develop according to management plan Special Management Considerations: cooperate with Alaska Department of Fish & Game to disperse use pressures
Denali State Park (existing)	80	III I I II	Acquisition: seek legislative addition of Indian River; work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on Native allotment acquisition and easements; evaluate state park boundary adjustment on the Parks Highway Planning: complete feasibility study of the Tokositna Project to include Curry Ridge; update manage- ment plan Development: complete trail program and management plan development phases Special Management Considerations: consider joint management agreements with the National Park Service; staff visitor information services at Byers Lake
Iditarod Trail (existing)	81	I I I I	Acquisition: follow Iditarod Trail Plan recommendations Planning: adoption of Iditarod Trail Plan Development: implement Iditarod Trail Plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with trail council - Iditarod Race Committee and private citizens
Chickaloon State Trail (proposed)	81	I I II II	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of trail cor- ridor Planning: prepare trail management plan Development: determine priorities of segments and implement trail management plan Special Management Considerations: establish a trail management council

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Little Susitna State Recreation River (proposed)	81	I I II I	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of river corridor Planning: prepare river management plan Development: develop according to river management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Alexander Creek State Recreation River (proposed)	81	I I II II	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of a river corridor Planning: prepare river management plan Development: develop according to river management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Talachulitna State Recreation River (proposed)	81	I I II II	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of a river corridor Planning: prepare river management plan Development: develop according to the river manage- ment plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Talkeetna State Recreation River (proposed)	81	I I II II	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of a river corridor Planning: prepare river management plan Development: develop according to river management plan Special Management Considerations: work coopera- tively with private landowners
Lake Creek State Recreation River (proposed)	81	I I	Acquisition: seek legislative designation or a river corridor Planning: prepare river management plan

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Kroto Creek State Recreation River (proposed)	81	II	Development: develop according to river management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
		I	Acquisition: seek legislative designation of a river corridor
		I	Planning: prepare river management plan
		II	Development: develop according to river management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Yentna River State Recreation Sites (proposed)	81	II	Acquisition: obtain (1800 acres) access sites by administrative action
		II	Planning: prepare management plan
		III	Development: implement management plan
Mt. Susitna State Recreation Area (future consideration)	82	}	These areas may be included as units of the State Park System depending on recreational needs, use preferences and upon available funding.
Gunsight Mountain State Recreation Area (future consideration)	82		

MATANUSKA GLACIER SRS


**MAT-SU
VALLEY**

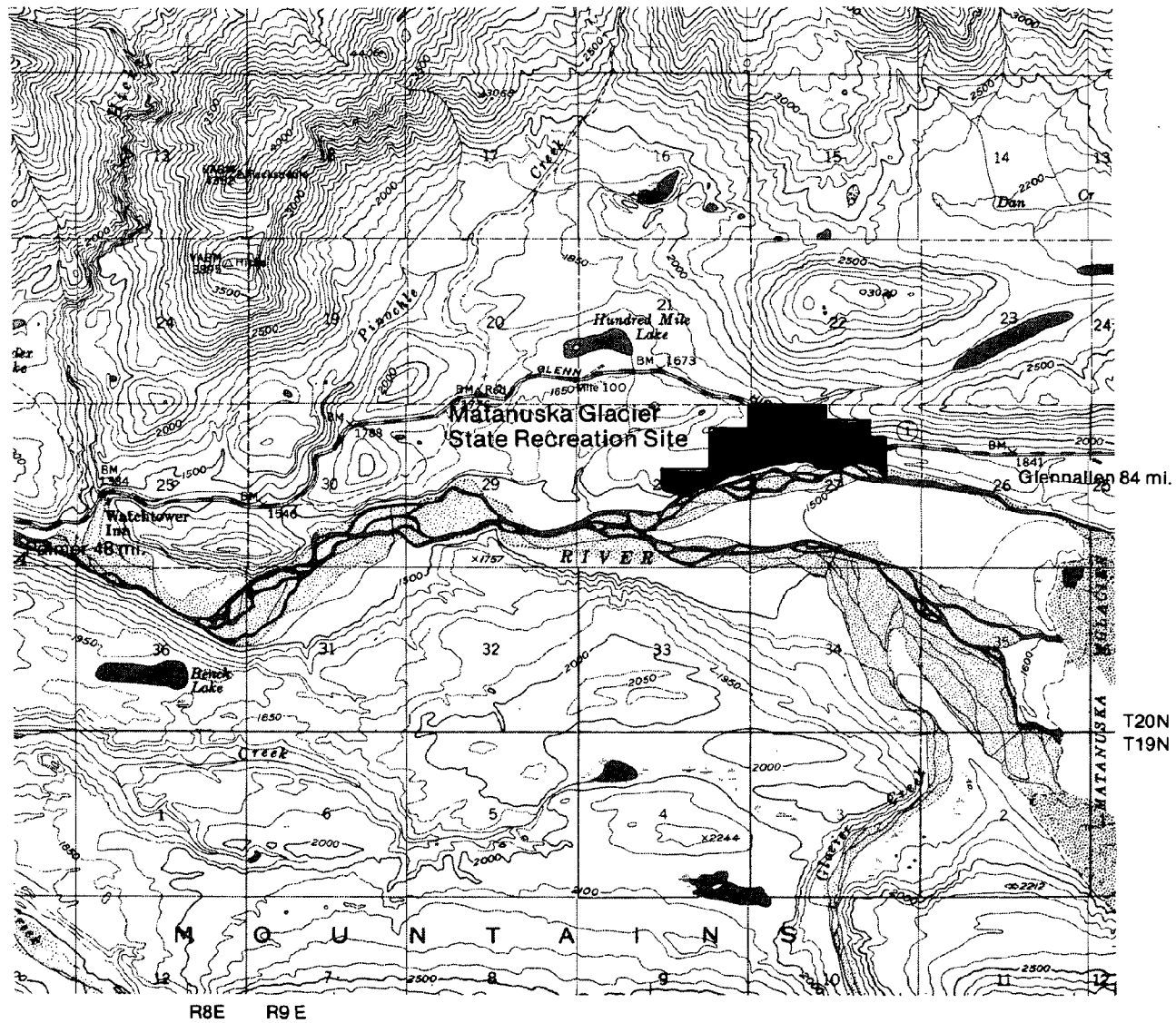
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Anchorage D3

 Existing
Park Land

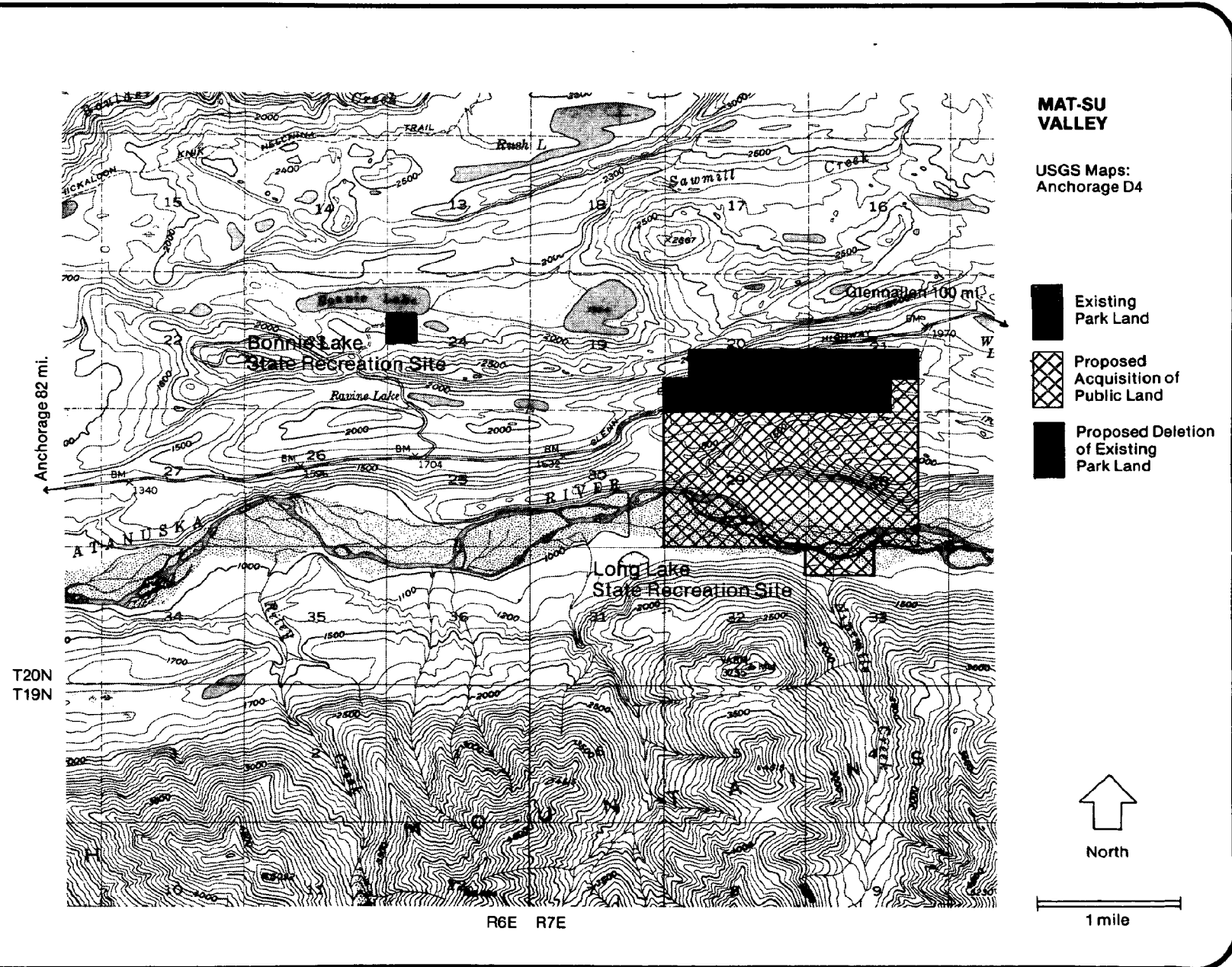


North


1 mile



LONG LAKE SRS/BONNIE LAKE SRS



KING MOUNTAIN SRS

**MAT-SU
VALLEY**

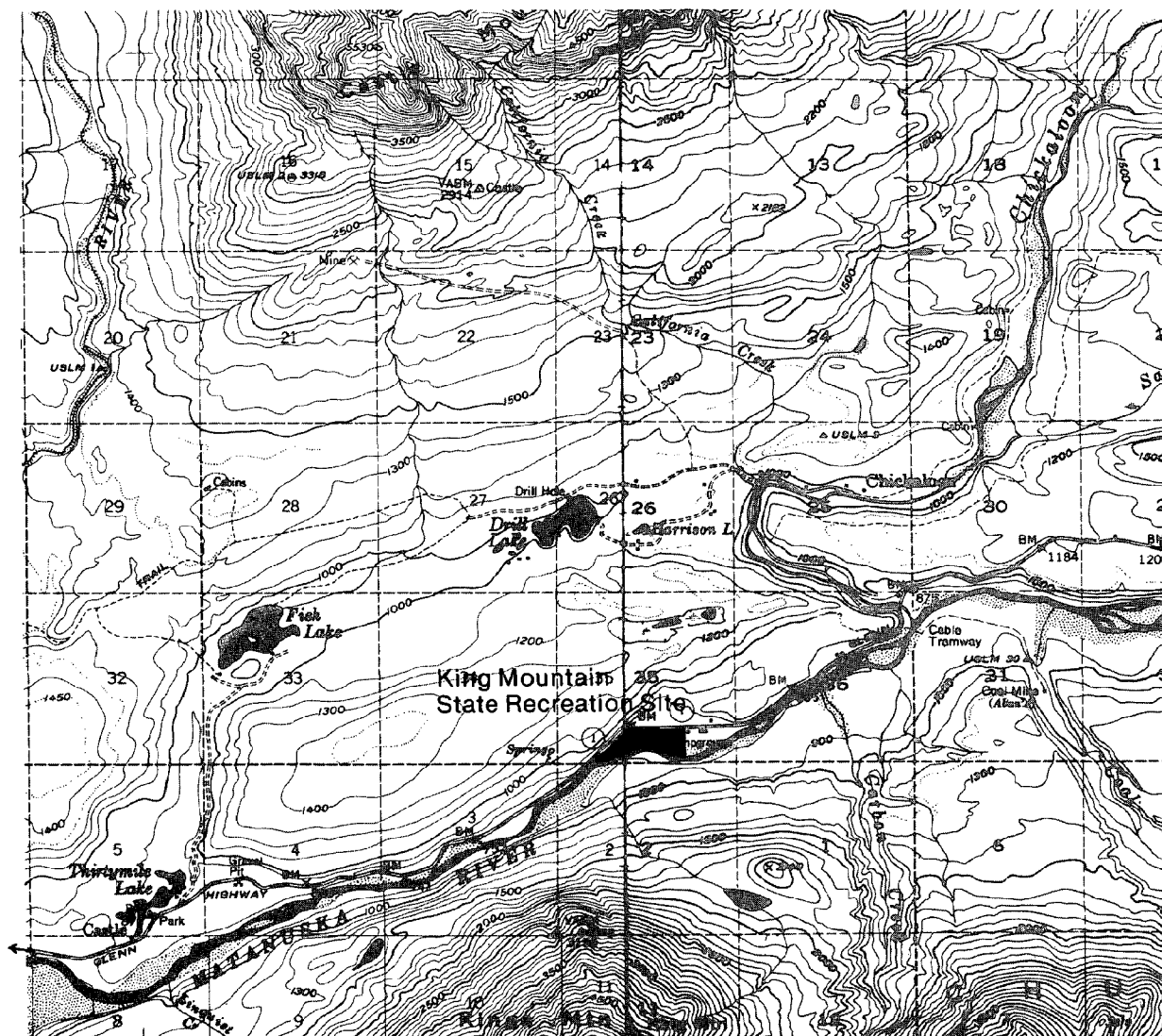
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Anchorage D4

 Existing
Park Land



North


1 mile

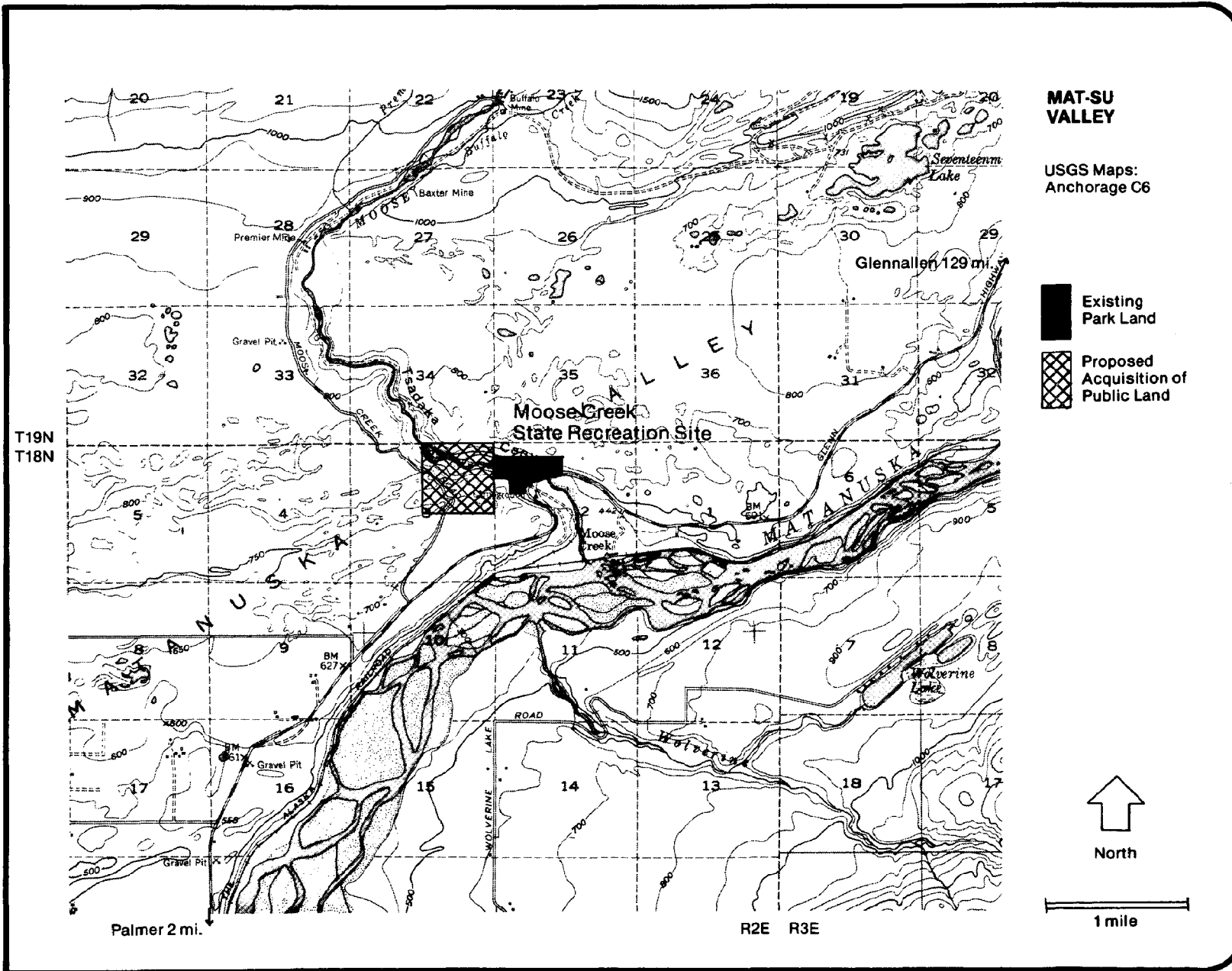


Glennallen 107 mi.

T20N
T19N

R5E R6E





MOOSE CREEK SRS



MATANUSKA VALLEY COLONY FARM SHP/KEPLER-BRADLEY SRA

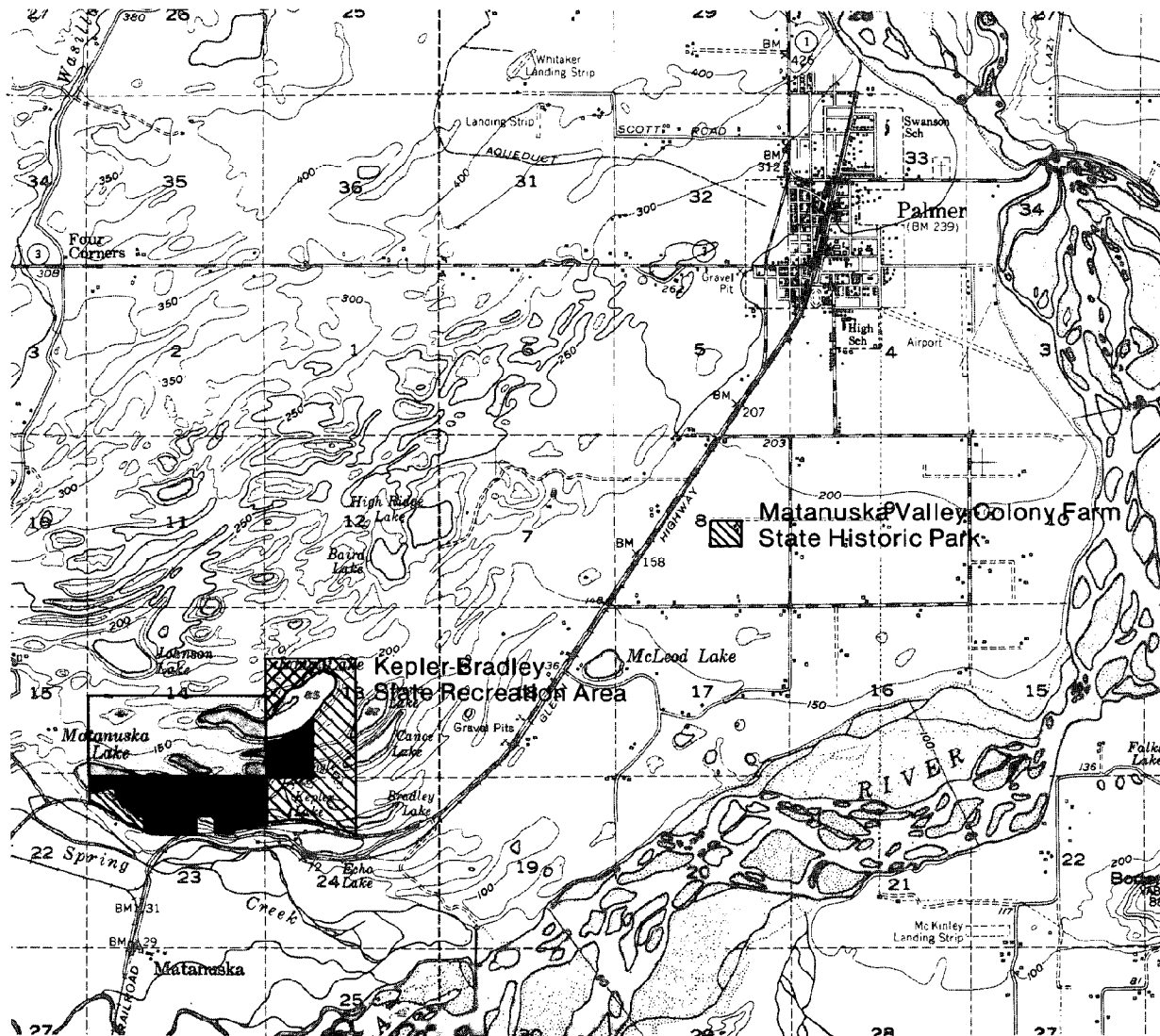
MAT-SU VALLEY

USGS Maps:
Anchorage C6

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Private Land
-  Cooperative Management Land



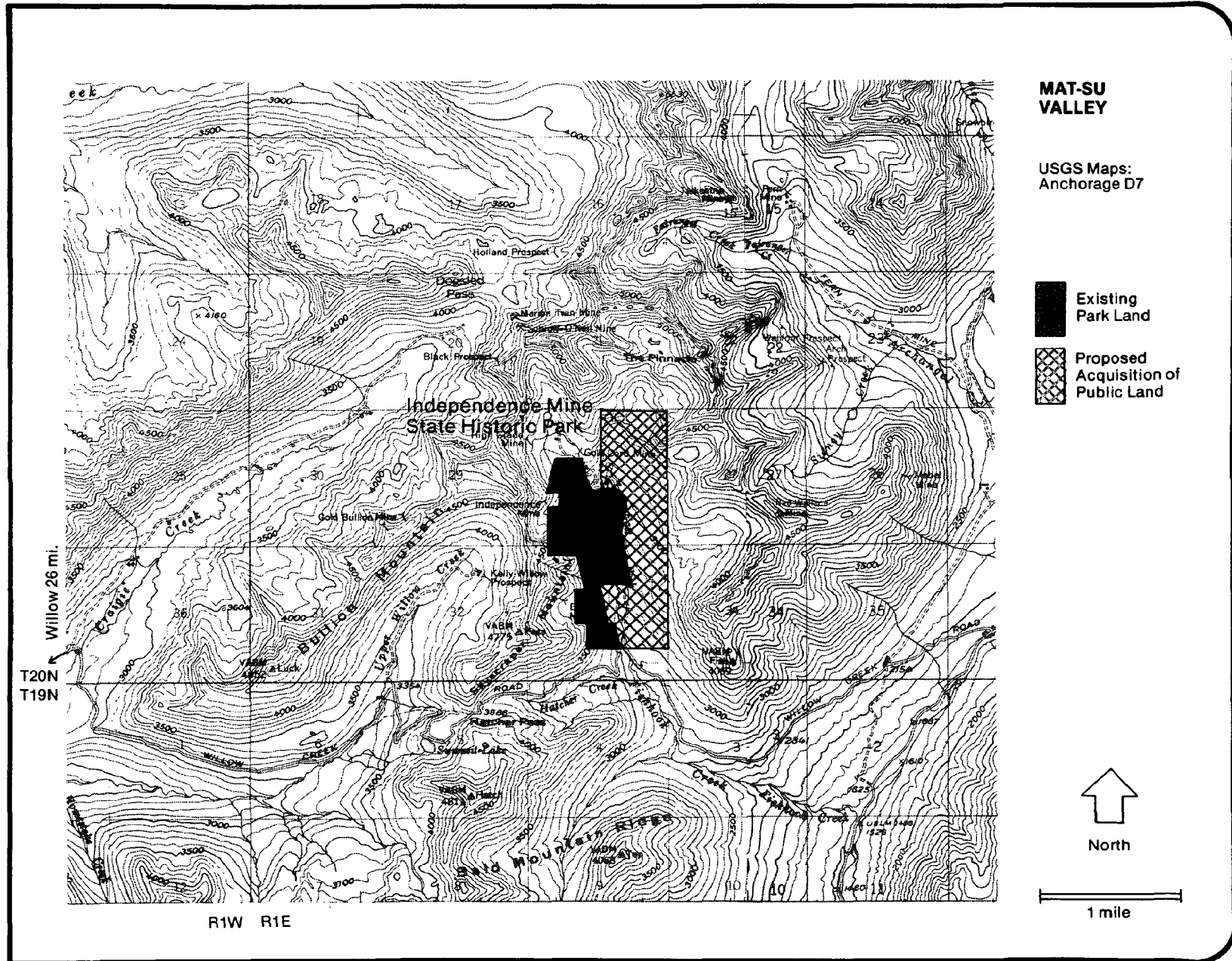
1 mile



T18N
T17N

R1E R2E


INDEPENDENCE MINE SHP




HATCHER PASS SRA

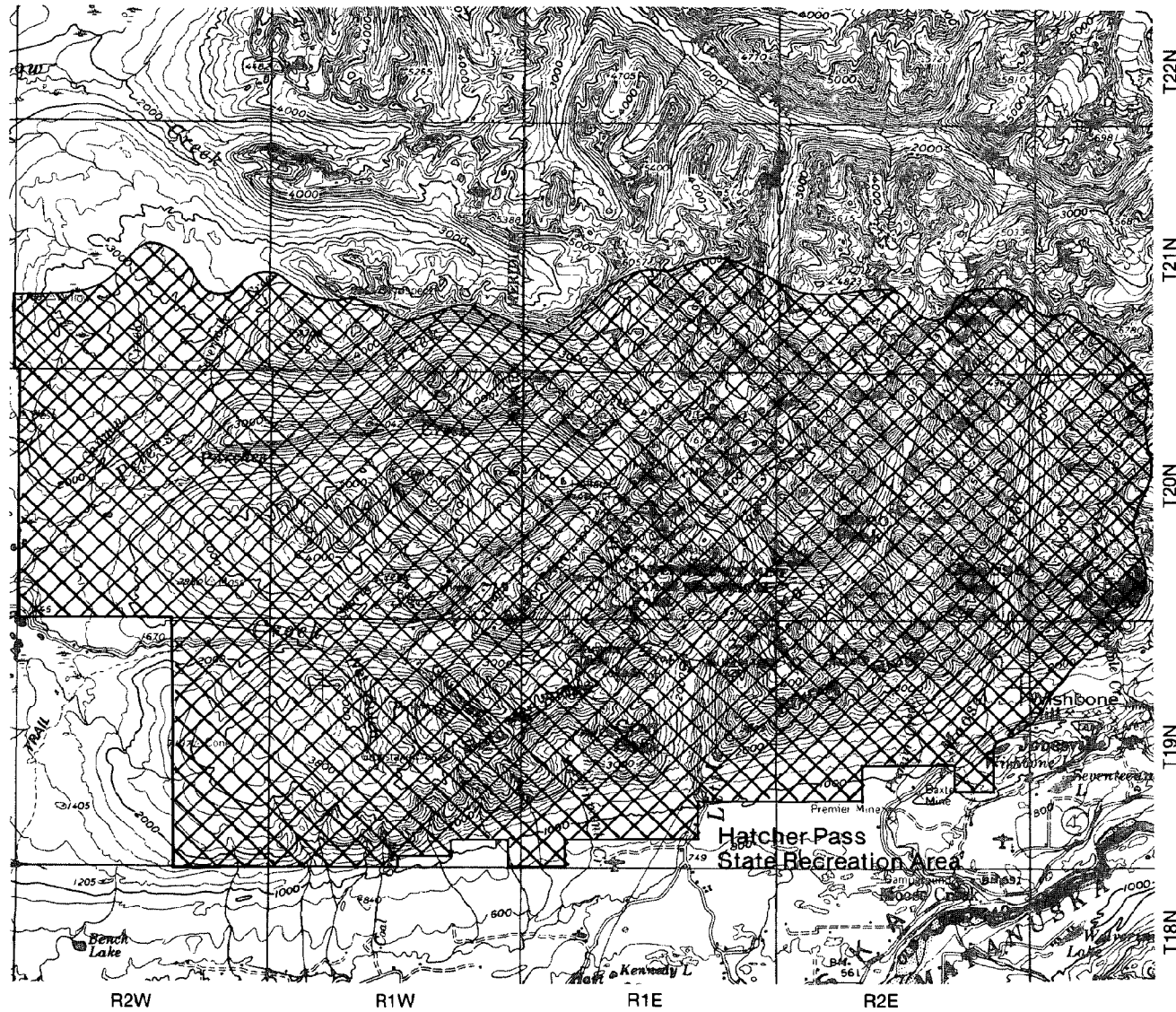
**MAT-SU
VALLEY**

USGS Maps:
Anchorage

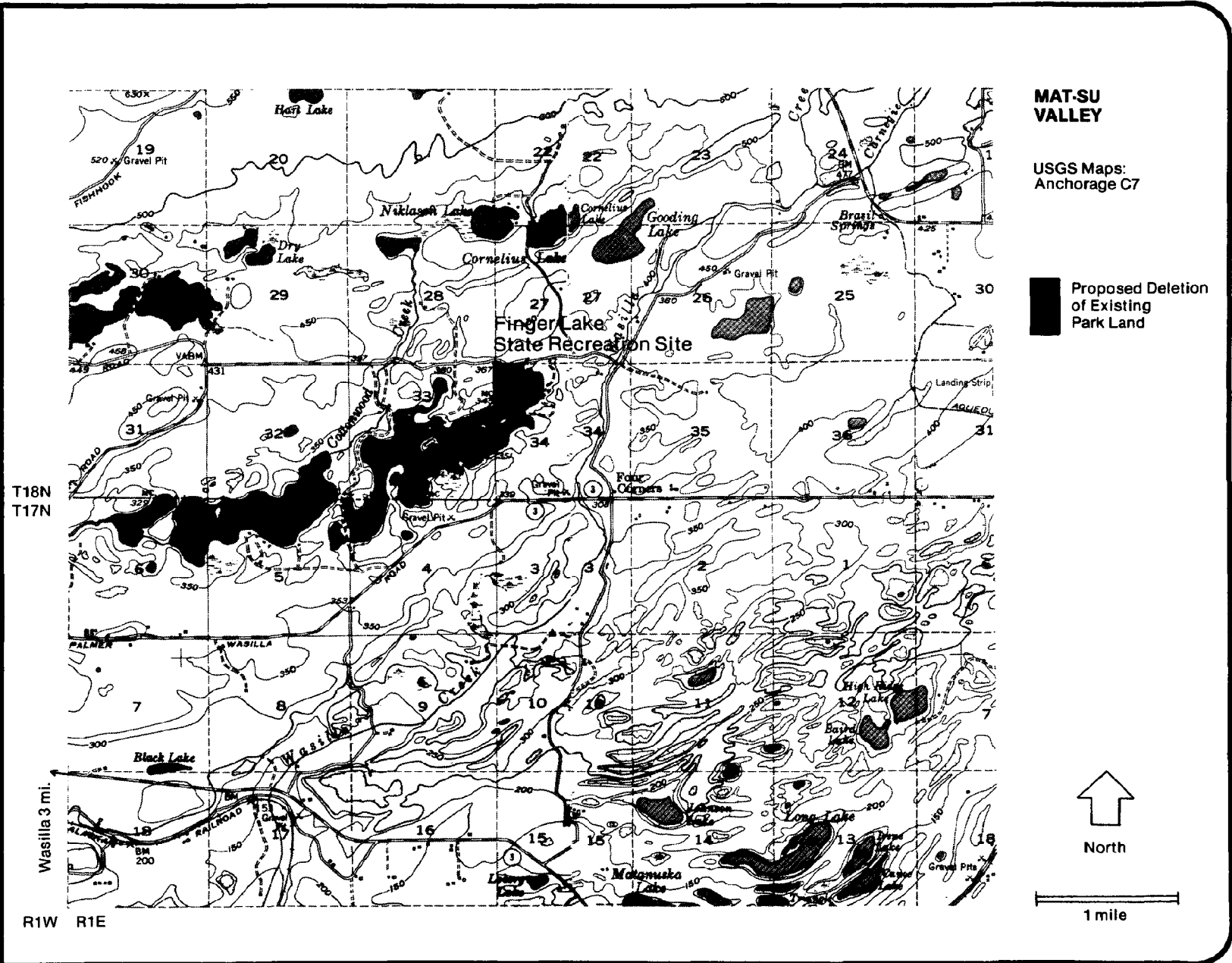
 Proposed
Acquisition of
Public Land




4 miles



FINGER LAKE SRS



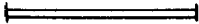
ROCKY LAKE SRS/BIG LAKE (EAST) SRS/BIG LAKE (SOUTH) SRS

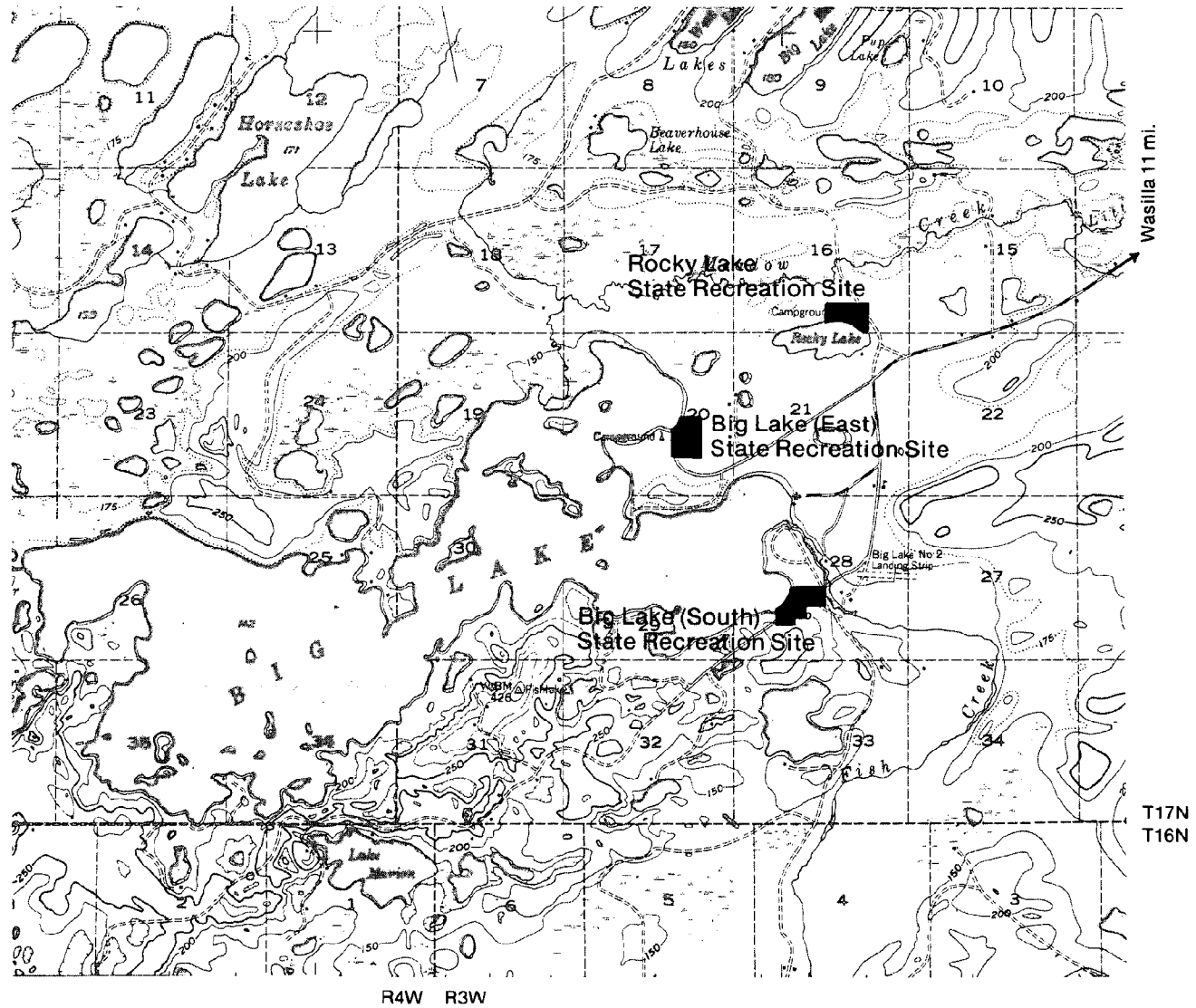
**MAT-SU
VALLEY**

USGS Maps:
Anchorage C8

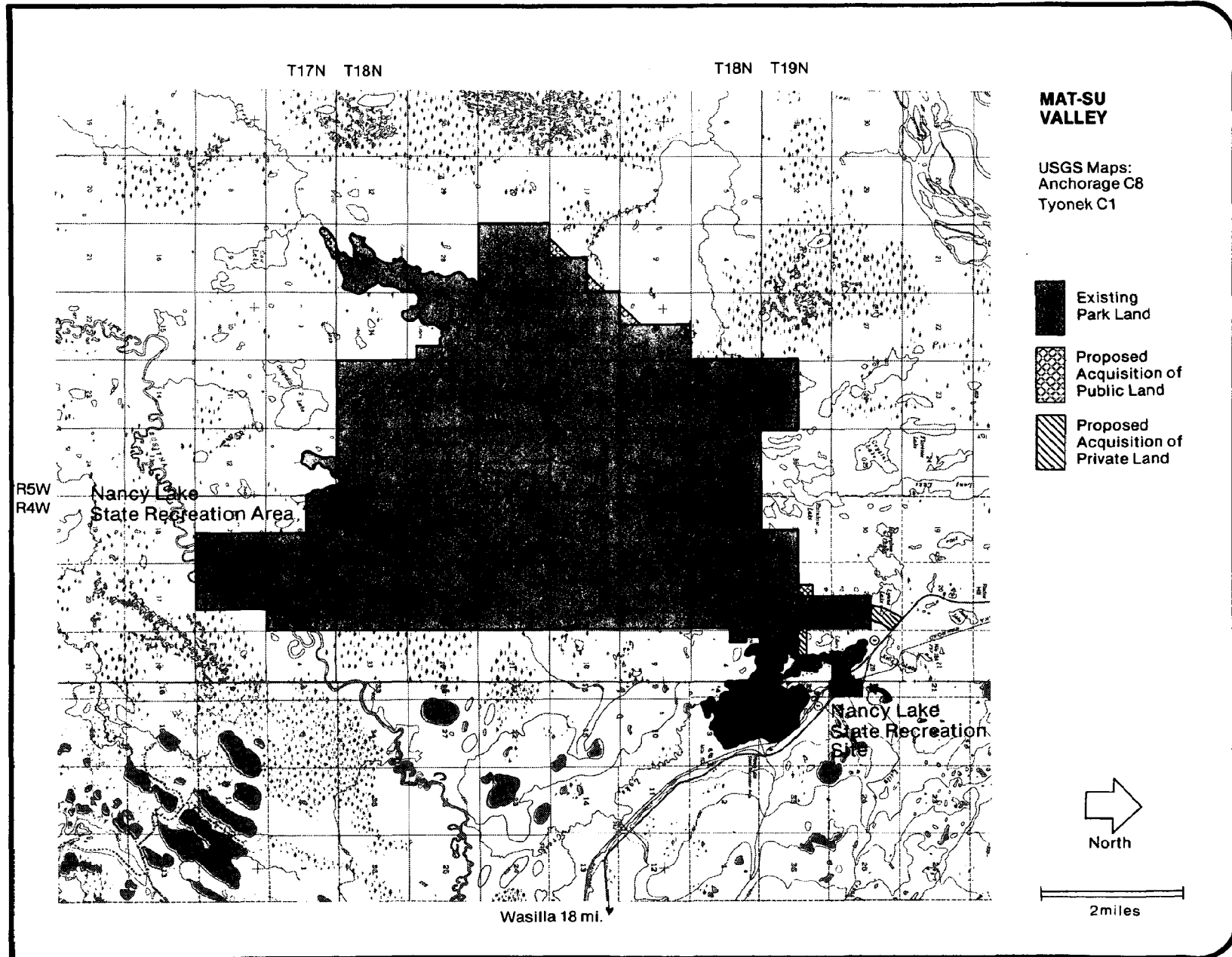
 Proposed Deletion
of Existing
Park Land




1 mile



NANCY LAKE SRA/NANCY LAKE SRS



WILLOW CREEK SRA

MAT-SU VALLEY

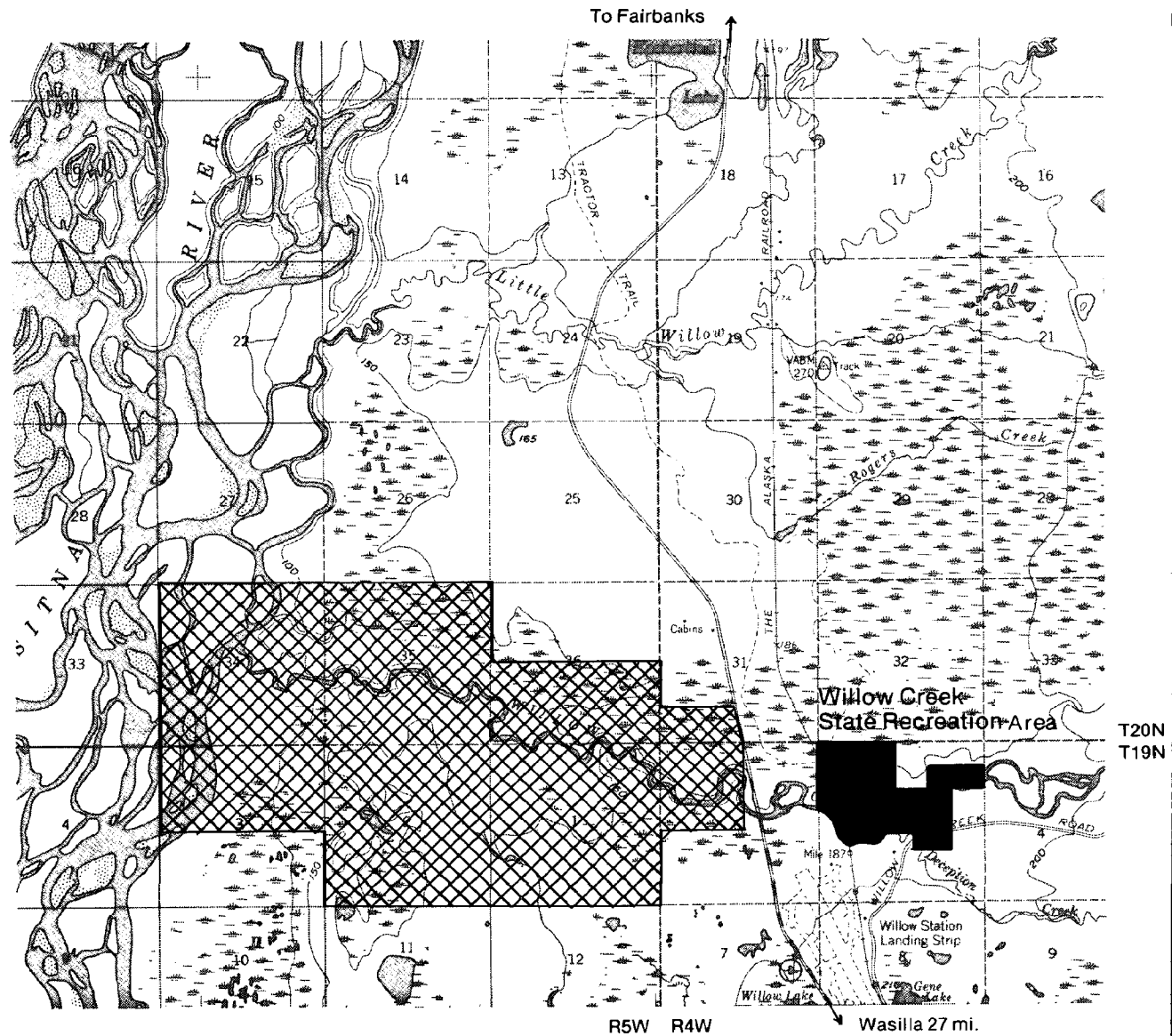
USGS Maps:
Tyonek D1

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land

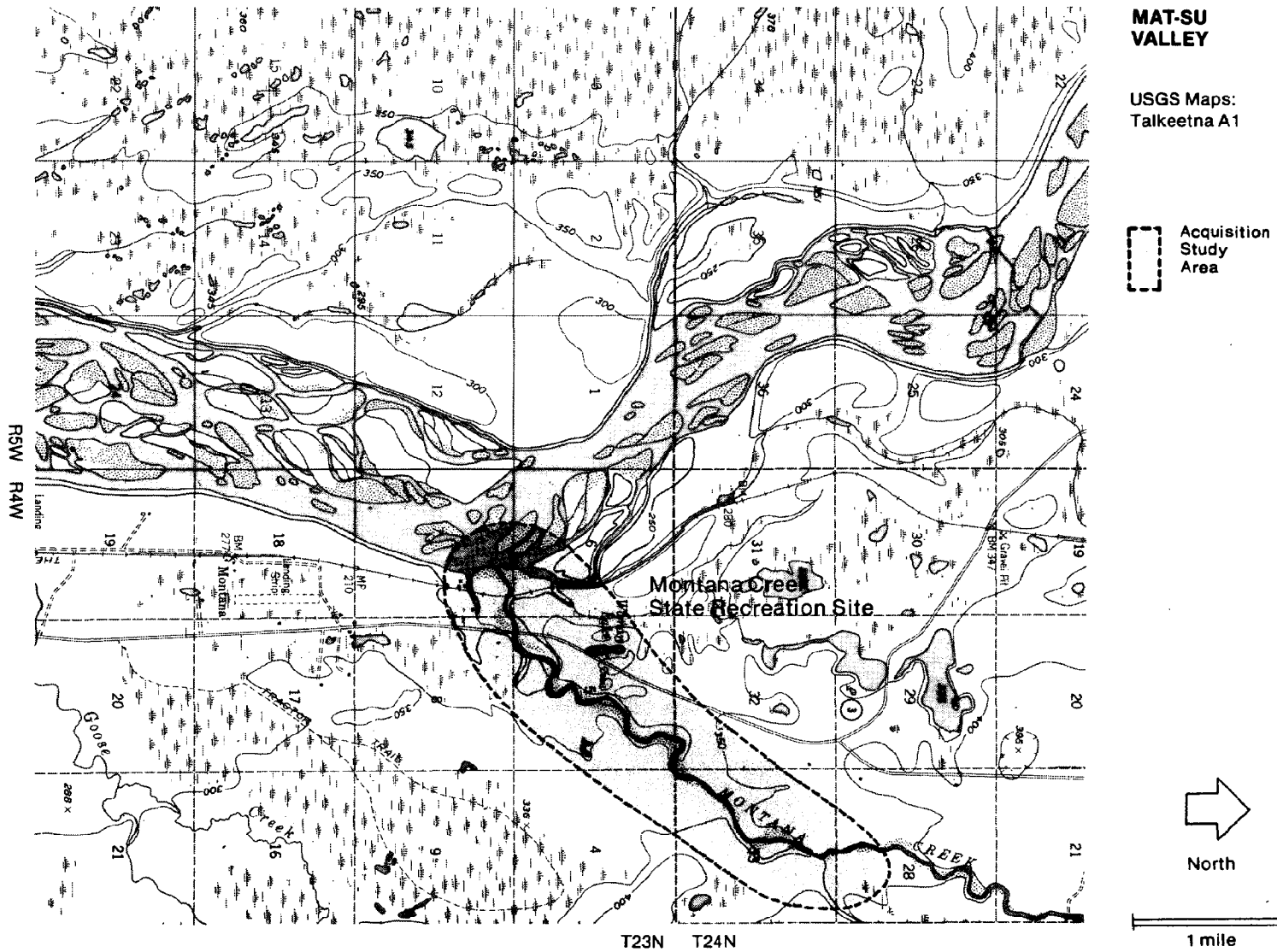


North

1 mile



MONTANA CREEK SRS



DENALI SP

MAT-SU VALLEY

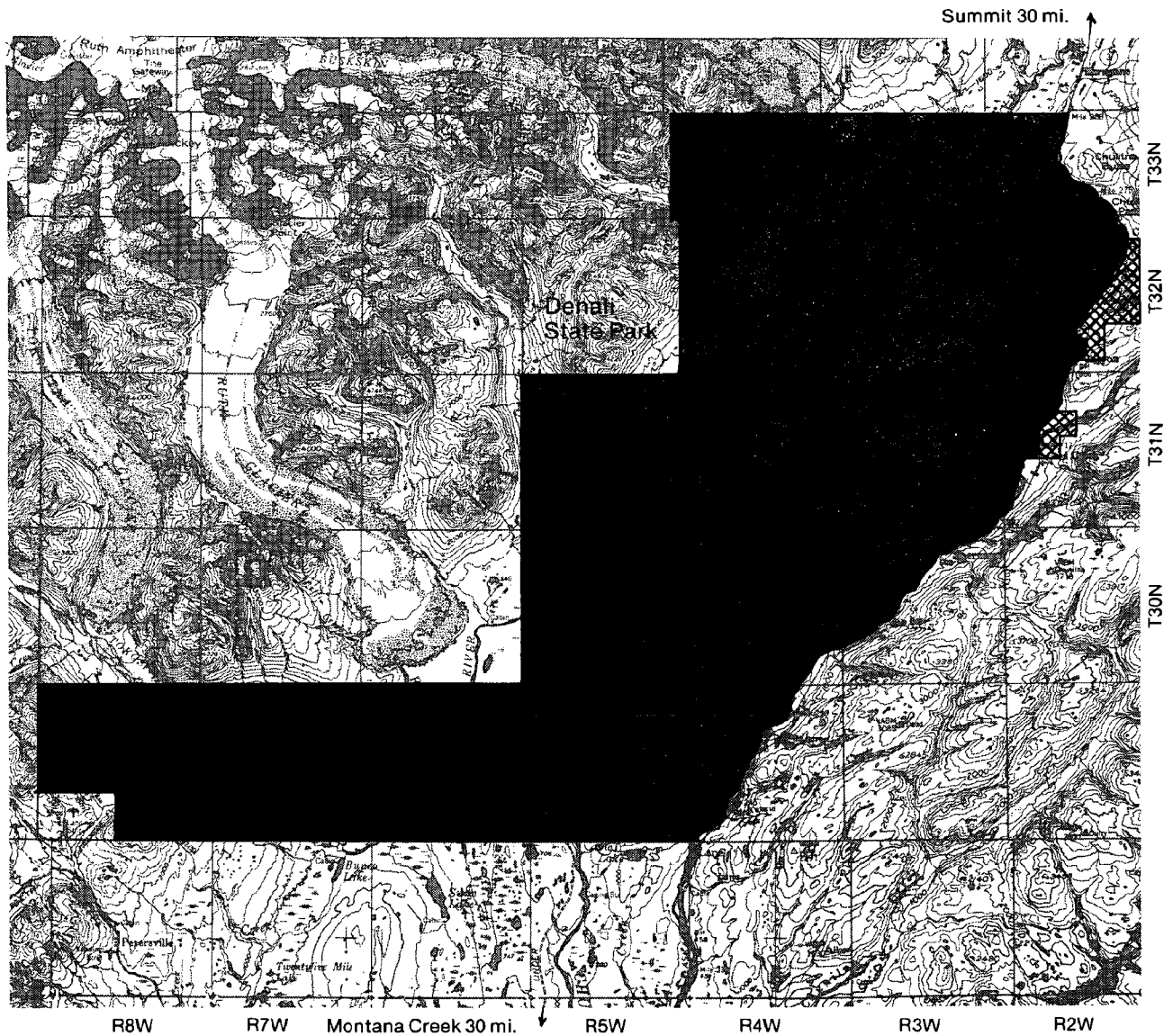
USGS Maps:
Talkeetna
Talkeetna Mountains

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land

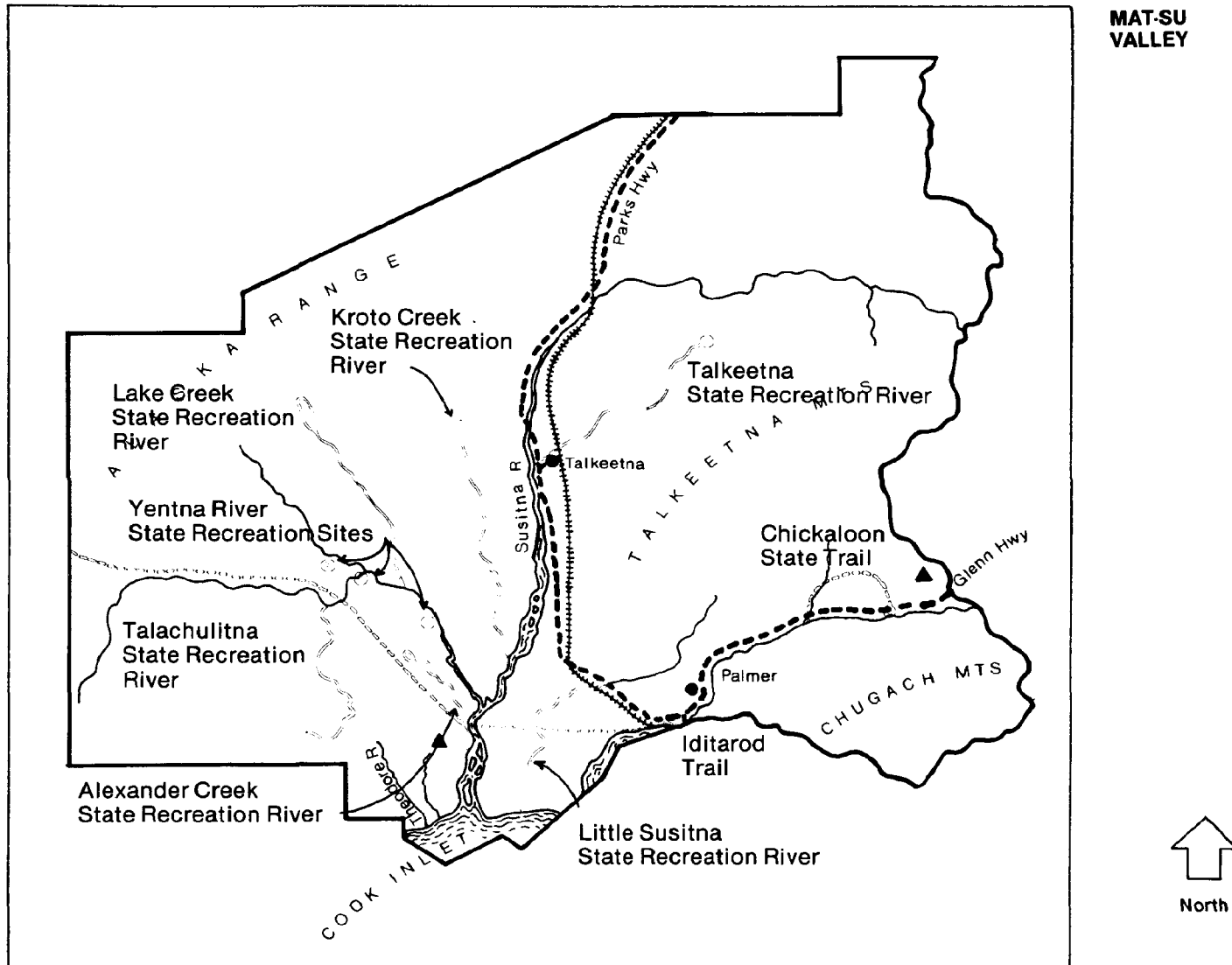


North

6 miles



STATE RECREATION RIVERS & STATE TRAILS

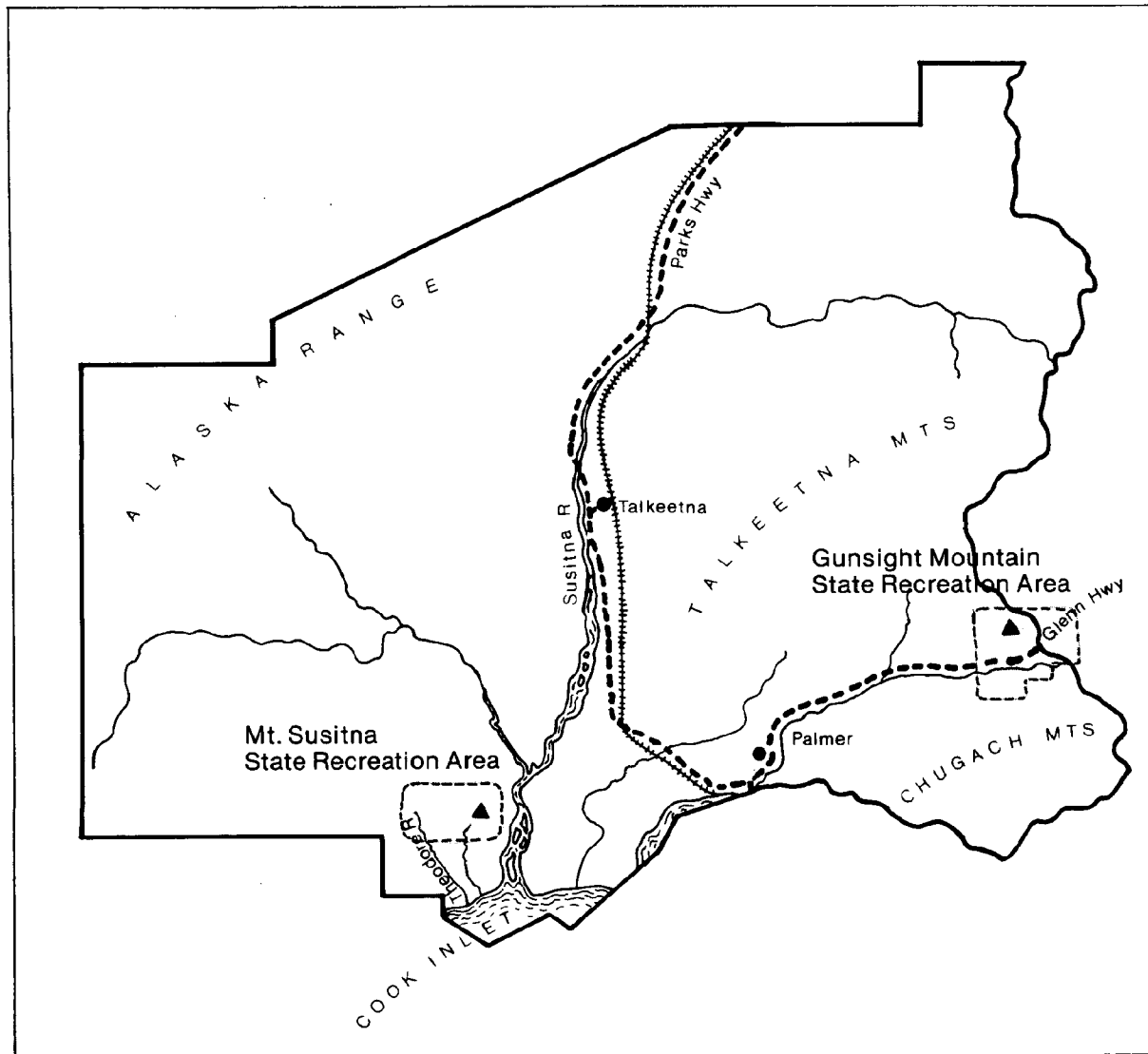


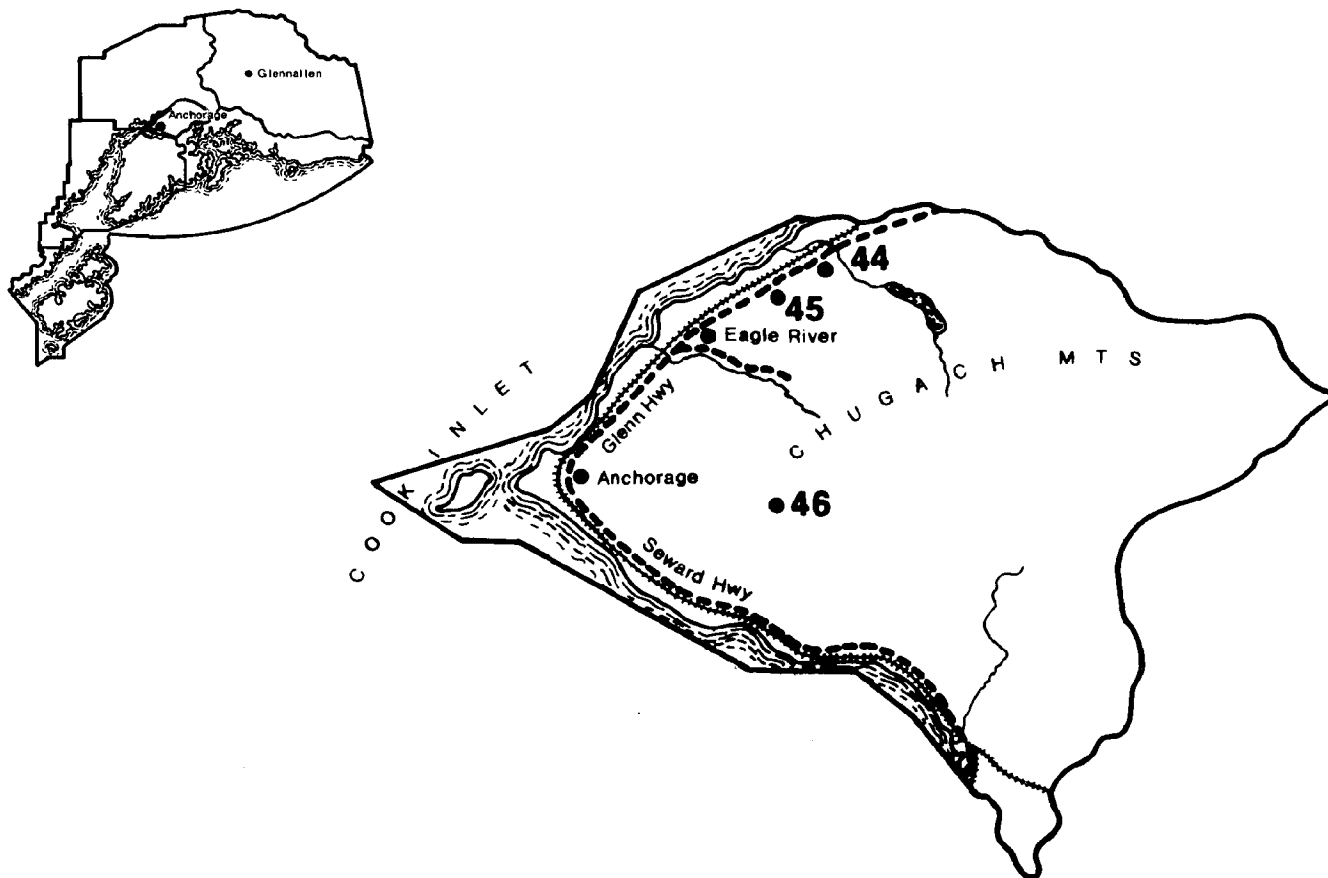
FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

**MAT-SU
VALLEY**



North





- 44. Mirror Lake SRS
- 45. Peters Creek SRS
- 46. Chugach SP

ISSUES

- recreation dependent on community facilities of Chugach State Park, Chugach National Forest
- limited, accessible overnight-destination attractions
- native selections within north ½ of Chugach State Park
- dependence on out-of-subregion recreational opportunities

PUBLIC PREFERENCES

- desire for trail-related summer/winter activities
- provide driving for pleasure/day-use pursuits
- improve boating opportunities
- expand existing recreational facilities and staff

AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Forest Service: Chugach National Forest (Portage and Alyeska) - dispersed, backcountry recreation
- Private: commercial alpine skiing developments, guiding services charter pilots
- Bureau of Land Management: Portage Flats - dispersed recreation, open space
- State: Potter Marsh State Game Refuge - open space, wildlife habitat
- Community: Campbell Tract - extensive local park and recreational programs
- Military: Fort Richardson and Elmendorf AFB - limited recreational opportunities, controlled access

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

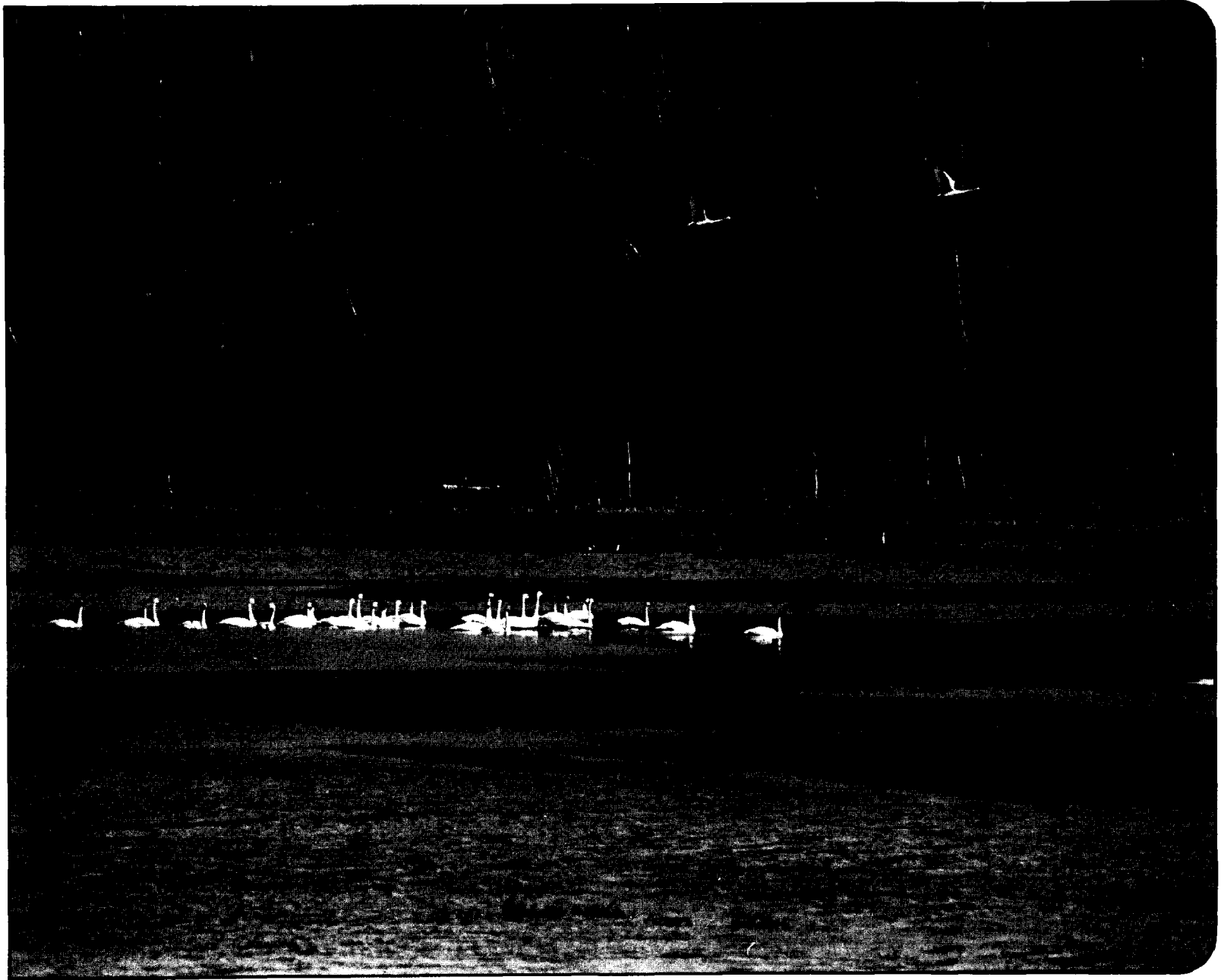
- accessible alpine environment
- scenic attractions
- stream valleys
- whitewater river
- coastal marshes/tidelands

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- EXISTING: alpine environment, day-use pursuits
- NEEDED: expanded diversity of recreational opportunities, develop river and trail units/opportunities, develop overnight facilities, expand existing facilities and staff

Anchorage Subregion Recommendations

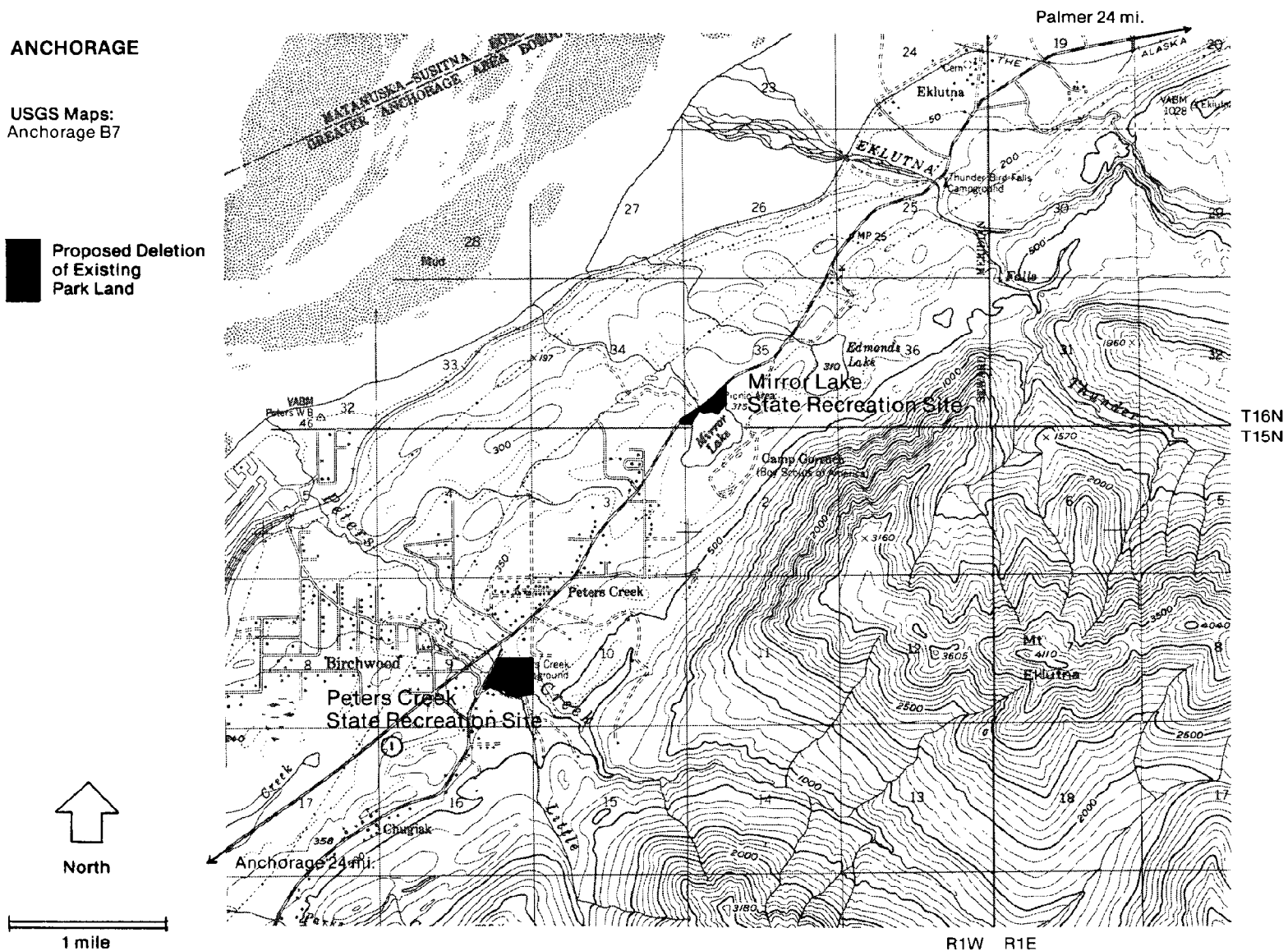
UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Mirror Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	88	I	Acquisition: convey management and restricted title to the Municipality of Anchorage
Peters Creek State Recreation Site (existing)	88	I	Acquisition: convey management and restricted title to the Municipality of Anchorage
Chugach State Park (existing)	89	I	Acquisition: complete land exchange with Eklutna; seek management rights of the California Creek trail; implement management plan boundary adjustments and acquisition of key private inholdings
		I	Development: continue phased development of management plan
		I	Special Management Considerations: maintain resource inventory and monitor visitor use; work with Eklutna and military to maintain Eagle River corridor and public access to Eagle River



88

USGS Maps:
Anchorage B7

Proposed Deletion of Existing Park Land



ANCHORAGE

 Existing
Park Land

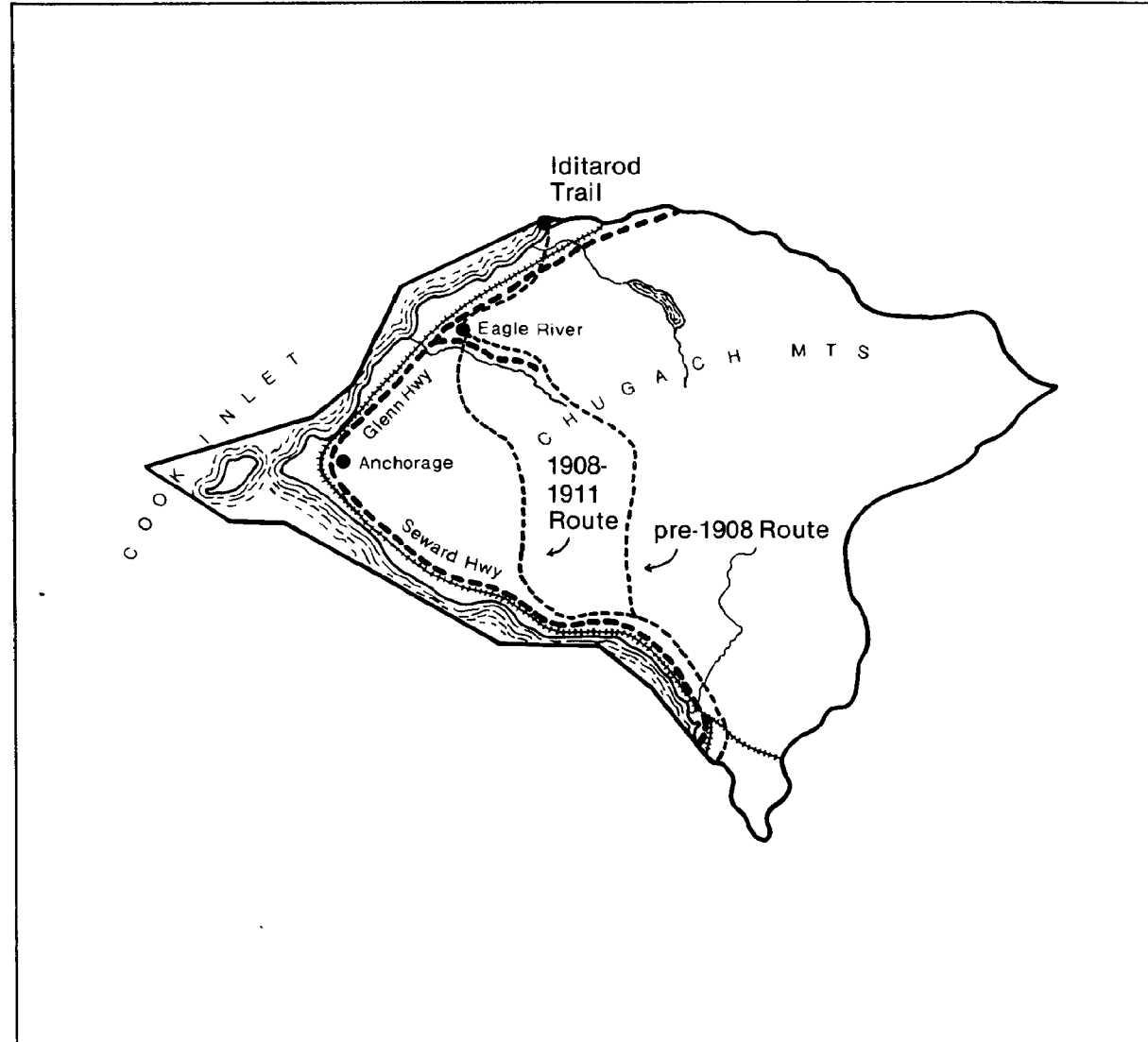


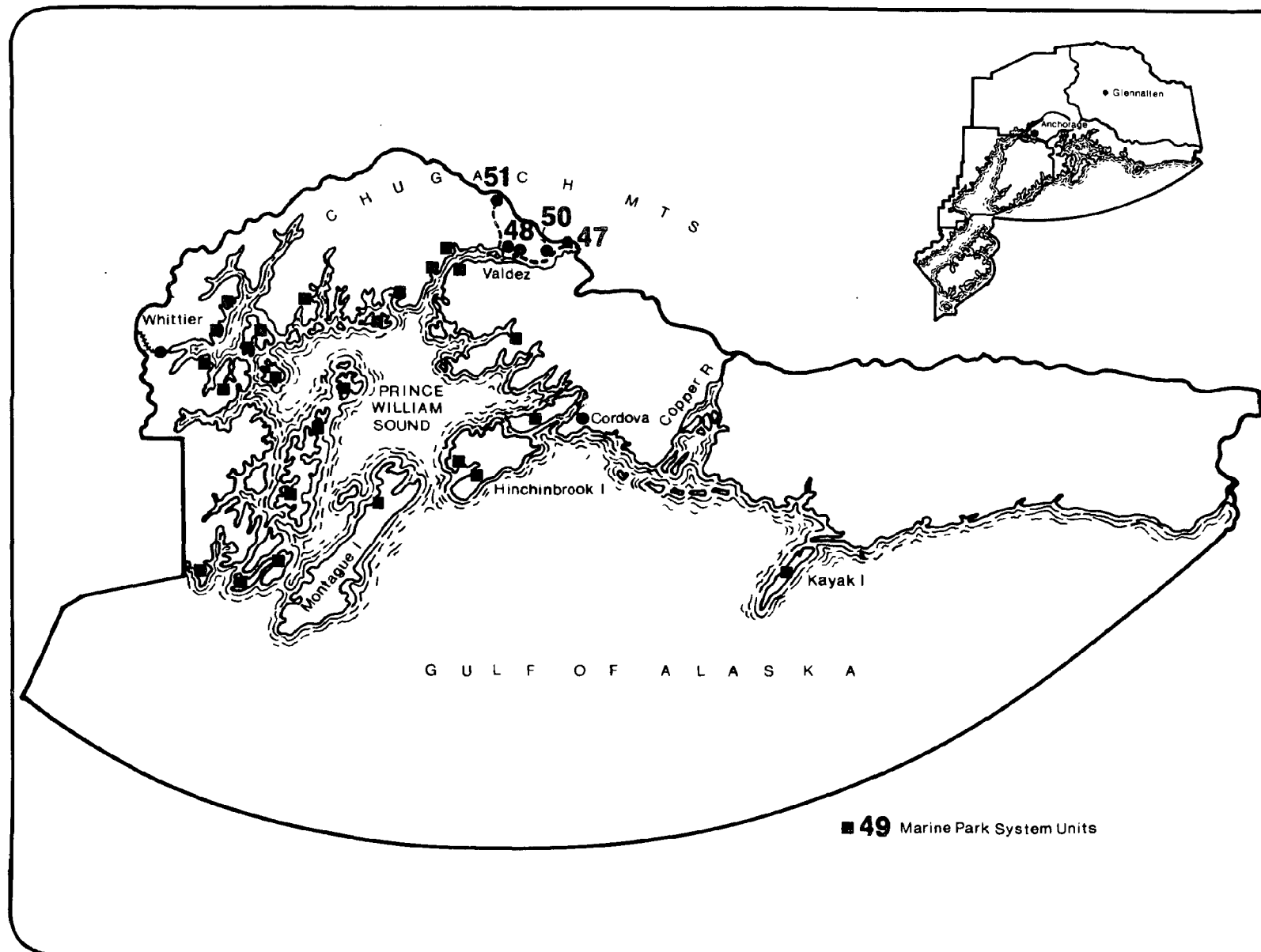
North

A horizontal line with vertical tick marks at each end, labeled "6 miles" below it.

STATE TRAILS

ANCHORAGE





Prince William Sound Subregion

- 47. Blueberry Lake SRS
- 48. Valdez Glacier SRS
- 49. Prince William Sound Marine Park System
- 50. Keystone Canyon SRA
- 51. Mineral Creek ST

ISSUES

- Native land claims
- state land selections and management tourism/recreational development
- access
- cooperative/management of recreational opportunities

PUBLIC PREFERENCE

- maintain wilderness character
- provide a diversity of boating opportunities
- provide public-use facilities
- limit development/services
- develop trail opportunities
- establish recreation uses

OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- U.S. Forest Service: Chugach National Forest - dispersed recreation, cabins
- Private: guiding services, boat charters/rentals, lodges, community recreational developments
- State: marine highway system - water-related recreation opportunities
- Community: park and recreational programs in Valdez and Cordova

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

- marine coastal environment
- numerous sheltered bays
- tidewater glaciers
- diverse marine wildlife
- cultural resources
- scenic
- pristine wilderness

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- EXISTING: two road accessible sites on the Richardson Highway
- NEEDED: regional recreational, cultural and tourism-related opportunities such as marine sites, recreational areas and trails

Prince William Sound Subregion Recommendations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Blueberry Lake State Recreation Site (existing)	96	I III I	Acquisition: obtain addition of 192 acres of state land by administrative action Planning: prepare management plan Development: complete currently-funded development projects
Valdez Glacier State Recreation Site (existing)	97	I	Acquisition: transfer to the City of Valdez
Prince William Sound Marine Park System (proposed)	98	I I I I	Acquisition: seek legislative designation and cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with the USFS
Keystone Canyon State Recreation Area (future consideration)	99	}	These areas may be included as units of the State Park System depending on recreational needs and preferences and upon available funding.
Mineral Creek State Trail (future consideration)	99		



BLUEBERRY LAKE SRS

PRINCE
WILLIAM
SOUND

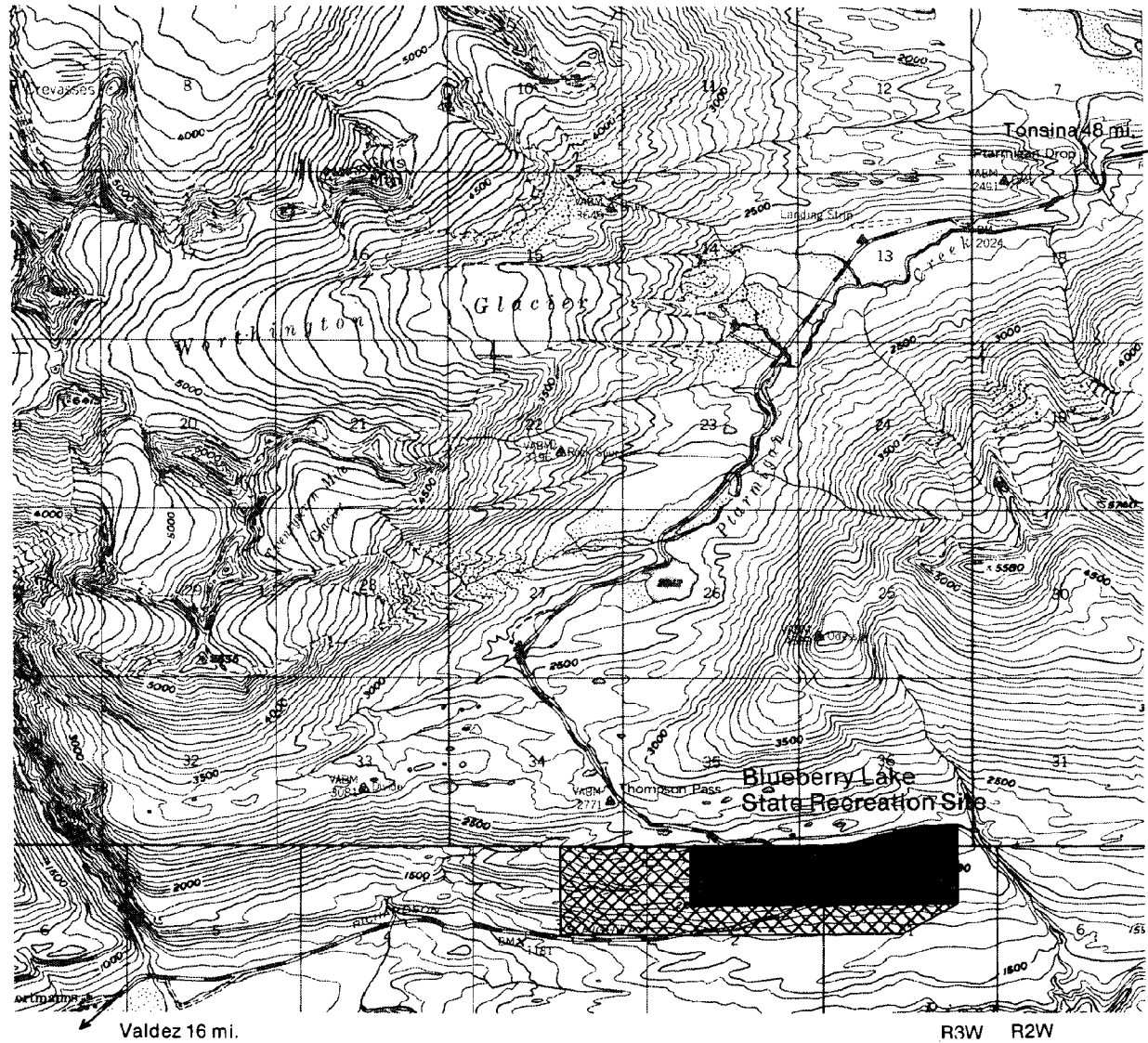
USGS Maps:
Valdez A5

-  Existing
Park Land
-  Proposed
Acquisition of
Public Land

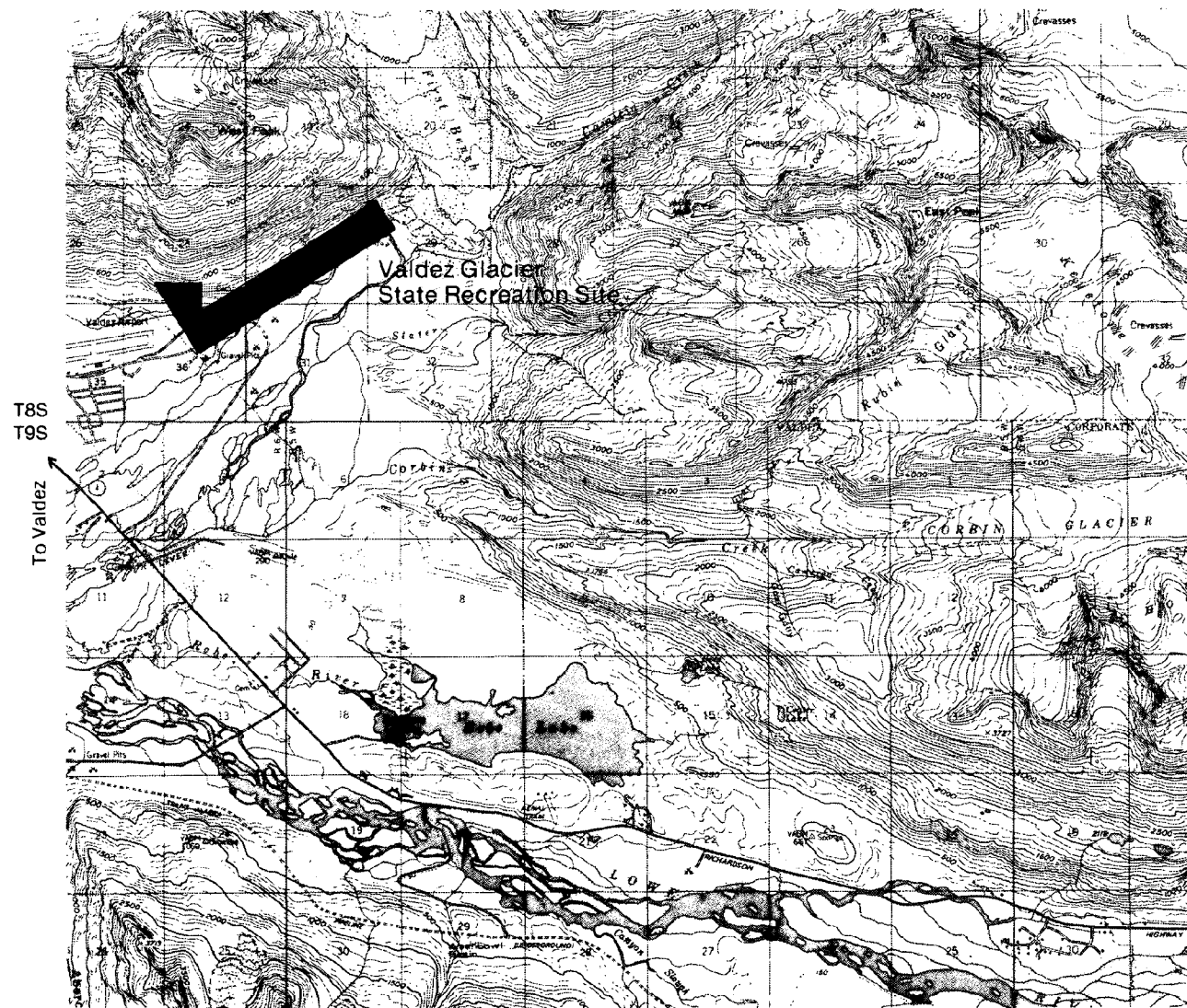


North

1 mile




VALDEZ GLACIER SRS



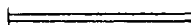
**PRINCE
WILLIAM
SOUND**

USGS Maps:
Valdez A6

 Proposed Deletion
of Existing
Park Land



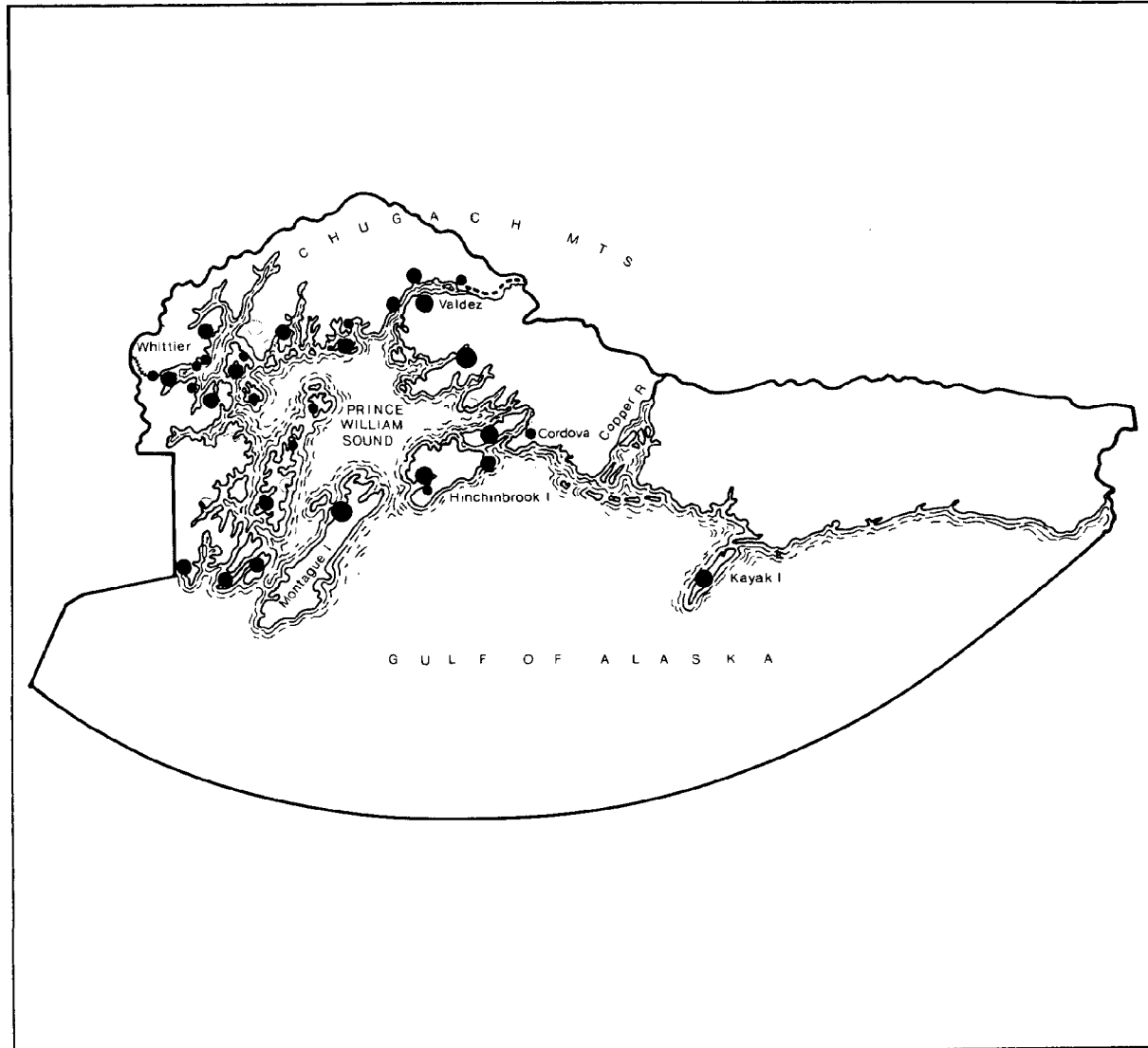
North


1 1/2 miles

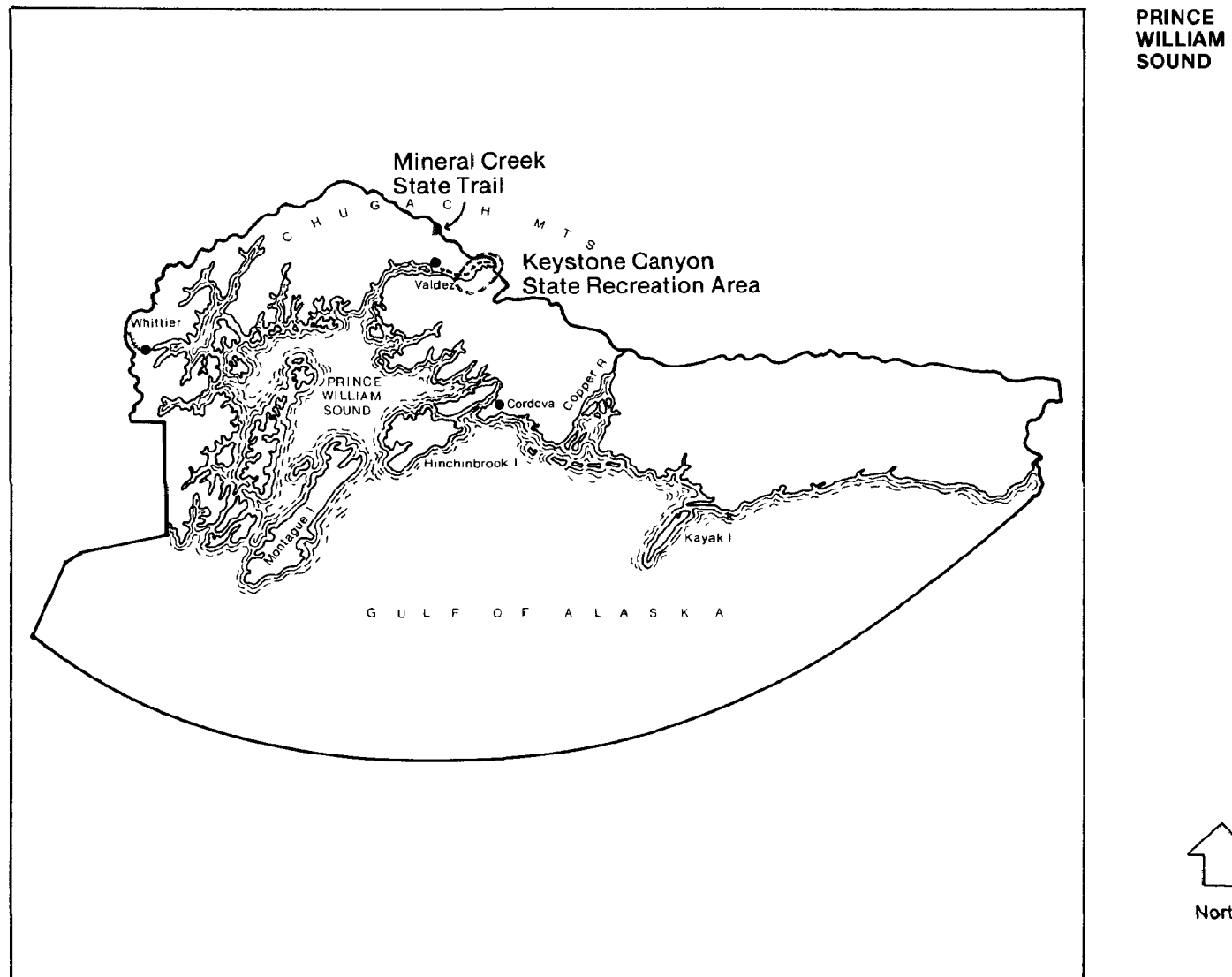
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND MARINE PARK SYSTEM

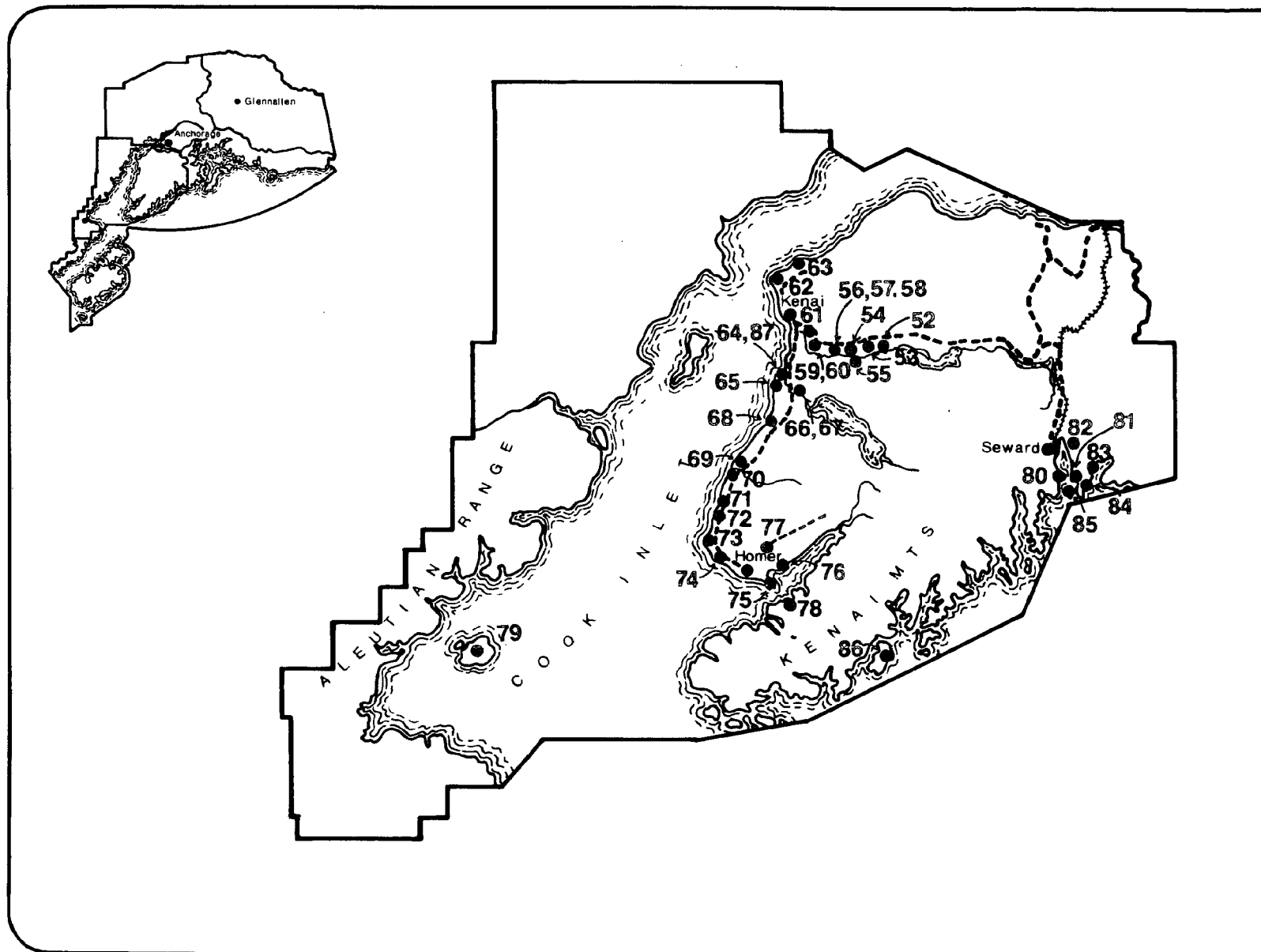
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

- Proposed
Marine Park
System Units
- Potential
Marine Park
System Units



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS





52. Kenai Keys SRA
53. Bing's Landing SRS
54. Izaak Walton SRS
55. Nilnunqa SHP
56. Scout Lake SRS
57. Morgan's Landing SRA
58. Funny River SRS
59. Kenai River Islands SRSs
60. Lower Kenai River SRSs
61. Slikok SRS
62. Bernice Lake SRS
63. Captain Cook SRA
64. Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
65. Cohoe Beach SRS
66. Kasilof River SRS
67. Johnson Lake SRA
68. Clam Gulch SRA
69. Ninilchik SRA
70. Deep Creek SRA
71. Stariski SRS
72. Whiskey Gulch SRS
73. Anchor River SRA
74. Anchor River SRS
75. Homer Spit
76. Cottonwood-Eastland SRA
77. Boxcar Hills ST
78. Kachemak Bay SP
79. St. Augustine Island SP
80. Caines Head SRA
81. Thumbs Cover SRS
82. Fourth of July Creek SRS
83. Safety Cove SRS
84. Driftwood Bay SRS
85. Sunny Cove SRS
86. Nuka Island
87. Mouth of the Kasilof River SRA

ISSUES

- heavy use pressures at road accessible recreational sites
- impacts of recreational users on local residents and their properties
- Native land claims within Kachemak Bay State Park reducing access and recreational opportunities
- general lack of public lands along lakes, streams and beaches

PUBLIC PREFERENCES

- expand and develop existing facilities
- provide access to beaches, rivers and lakes
- disperse and accommodate fishing demand
- provide greater level of public services

OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- U.S. Forest Service: road-accessible lakes, forest, alpine areas; backcountry cabins and dispersed recreation
- National Park Service: Kenai Fjords National Park, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve - wilderness
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Tuxedni National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Marine National Wildlife Refuge - dispersed backcountry opportunities, wildlife habitat, wilderness
- Private: guide services, private recreational developments
- Community: park and recreational programs within most cities

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

- accessible coastal environment
- freshwater lakes and rivers
- fish and wildlife
- Kachemak Bay marine and mountain environment
- glaciated mountains

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- EXISTING: road accessible areas to major salmon streams, Kachemak Bay coastal/mountain environment
- NEEDED: established trails, developed units to disperse use, provide diversity of year-round recreational opportunities; development of Kachemak Bay State Park

Kenai Subregion Recommendations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Kenai Keys State Recreation Area (existing)	110	III	Acquisition: cooperate with ADF&G on joint use of Fish & Game site
		I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; cooperate in planning with Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
		I	Development: develop according to management plan; include access point and potential for day-use and overnight facilities
		II	Special Management Considerations: work closely with private landowners to minimize recreational impacts
Bings Landing State Recreation Site (existing)	111	I	Acquisition: complete acquisition of 100 acres of state land through administrative action
		I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; determine level of use, appropriate scale and means of accommodating use
		I	Development: rehabilitate site and initiate new development according to management and site plans
		I	Special Management Considerations: maintain quality of the river frontage
Izaak Walton State Recreation Site (existing)	111	I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; assess existing impacts and protection of site values
		I	Development: rehabilitate existing campground; relocate or eliminate campsites in conflict with archaeological sites
		I	Special Management Considerations: establish cultural zone in eastern portion of the site and provide interpretive facilities
Nilnunqa State Historic Park (existing)	111	I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; develop an historic preservation plan; establish archaeological investigations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Scout Lake State Recreation Site (proposed)	112	II I I III III	Development: develop interpretation opportunities Special Management Considerations: protect the archaeological site, minimize recreational impacts and provide interpretation of the cultural resources Acquisition: obtain 134.5 acre parcel from the Boy Scouts of America pursuant to legislative direction, seek administrative addition of state lands (30 acres), obtain a cooperative management agreement with the borough Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan
Morgan's Landing State Recreation Area (existing)	112	I I I I	Acquisition: complete scheduled acquisition of the 40 acre private parcel and seek cooperative management of acreage to the west with Cook Inlet Region, Inc. Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> Development: develop as a regional park destination for year-round recreational use Special Management Considerations: use portion of the unit as district headquarters and visitor center
Funny River State Recreation Site (existing)	112	I I II	Acquisition: obtain 80 acres of private and state land Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; assess impact of improved access to the area Development: provide river access and upland development
Kenai River Islands State Recreation Sites (existing)	113	III	Acquisition: no scheduled acquisition; however, if the opportunity arises, and where appropriate, obtain additional undeveloped islands on the Kenai River

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Lower Kenai River State Recreation Sites (existing)		I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u> ; define site character and biological values and sensitivities
		III	Development: assess development potential through the management planning process
		III	Special Management Considerations: maintain open-space and habitat values
	113	I	Acquisition: obtain Federal surplus property (35 acres); seek management rights to portion of CIRI land in Section 24
		I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u>
		III	Developments: develop according to management plan
	113	I	Planning: include as part of the <u>Kenai River State Park Units Management Plan</u>
		III	Development: develop according to management plan
	114	II	Acquisition: seek to transfer via AS 38.315 to North Kenai Park and Recreation Service Area (Kenai Peninsula Borough)
Captain Cook State Recreation Area (existing)	115	II	Acquisition: obtain spit (10-20 acres) at mouth of the Swanson River and adjust state park boundaries to the east; seek cooperative management agreement with the borough
		III	Planning: update management plan; assess performance of existing facilities
		III	Development: implement management plan
Georgievsk Redoubt State Historic Park (proposed)	116	II	Acquisition: locate historic site of fort and obtain management rights to the lands
		II	Planning: prepare archaeological survey and management plan
		III	Development: depict historic site through visitor information techniques

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Cohoe Beach State Recreation Site (proposed)	117	III	Special Management Considerations: protect historic site character
		I	Acquisition: obtain 385 acres of state land through administrative procedure; seek a cooperative agreement with the Kenai Borough and Alaska DOT/PF
		II	Planning: prepare management plan
		II	Development: implement adaptive reuse of the existing gravel pit and implement the management plan
Kasilof River State Recreation Site (existing)	117	III	Planning: maintain mix of vehicle parking and camping; prepare management plan
		III	Development: rehabilitate site
Johnson Lake State Recreation Area (existing)	117	II	Development: implement existing site development plan
		III	Special Management Considerations: monitor walk-in campground use
Clam Gulch State Recreation Area (existing)	118	II	Acquisition: obtain 300 acres of state land through administrative action and acquire land along Sterling Highway
		I	Planning: consider destination, extended day uses and prepare management plan
		I	Development: expand facilities and diversity of uses, upgrade services, and pave road. Implement management plan
		III	Special Management Considerations: extend management capability to beach areas
Ninilchik State Recreation Area (existing)	119	I	Acquisition: seek cooperative management agreement with Ninilchik Native, Inc. for lands in Section 35; seek cooperative agreement with landowners along Ninilchik River and obtain small parcel of private land (7 acres) above highway bridge

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Deep Creek State Recreation Area (existing)	119	I	Planning: incorporate recreation design into boat harbor development; relate beach area to uplands
		I	Development: develop uplands for camping; seek cooperative effort with Army Corps of Engineers on harbor development
		I	Special Management Considerations: phase-out campground facility development at the beach
		I	Acquisition: obtain cooperative agreement with borough and obtain 60 acres of private land on both sides of access road
		I	Planning: relate beach area to uplands through management plan
		I	Development: implement management plan
		I	Special Management Considerations: protect wetlands and minimize user conflicts
Stariski State Recreation Site (existing)	120	III	Development: rehabilitate
Whiskey Gulch State Recreation Site (proposed)	120	I	Acquisition: obtain 320 acres of state lands through administrative action; cooperative management agreement with the university; obtain private land and land from Alaska DOT/PF
		II	Planning: prepare management plan
		II	Development: implement management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: consider establishing vehicle use zones on beach
Anchor River State Recreation Area (existing)	121	I	Acquisition: obtain 4 acres of private lands near river mouth and the Old Sterling Highway and day use access sites
		I	Development: implement existing site plan

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Anchor River State Recreation Site (existing)	121	I	Special Management Considerations: phase-out management responsibility for the rifle range
Homer Spit (proposed)	122	I	Acquisition: seek cooperative agreement with the City of Homer; obtain 50 acres of private lands
		I	Planning: seek joint management plan with the City of Homer
		I	Development: develop campground and headquarter site
		I	Special Management Considerations: consider establishing a campground user fee
Cottonwood-Eastland State Recreation Area (proposed)	123	I	Acquisition: seek legislative establishment; obtain 270 acres of private lands on a willing-seller basis
		II	Planning: complete management plan
		II	Development: implement management plan
Boxcar Hills State Trail (proposed)	129	III	Acquisition: seek legislative establishment
		III	Planning: prepare management plan
		III	Development: implement management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: coordinate planning with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Kachemak Bay State (and Wilderness) Park (existing)	124	I	Acquisition: complete land exchange with Seldovia Natives, Inc.; acquire inholdings where appropriate; consider dock site at Bear Cove and trail easements into park; acquire Aurora Lagoon and Halibut Cove Natural Areas from the Bureau of Land Management
		I	Planning: reevaluate existing management plan in coordination with the Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board
		I	Development: begin phased development based on approved management plan
		I	Special Management Considerations: address management issues; establish full-time staffing

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
St. Augustine Island State Scientific Preserve (proposed)	125	I	Acquisition: seek legislative establishment of a State Scientific Preserve
		I	Planning: establish criteria for scientific investigations and develop management plan
		II	Development: implement management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: monitor use
Caines Head State Recreation Area (existing)	126	I	Acquisition: obtain 550 acres of state land by administrative action for trail corridor from Tonsina Point
		I	Planning: complete management plan
		I	Development: phase development of shoreline and marine access, continue historic restoration; provide visitor information program
		I	Special Management Considerations: establish full-time staff, youth employment and consider a cooperative visitor information center in Seward
Thumbs Cove State Recreation Site- Marine Park System (proposed)	126	I	Acquisition: include in Prince William Sound Marine Park legislation
		II	Planning: prepare management plan
		II	Development: implement management plan
		II	Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Fourth of July Creek State Recreation Site- (proposed)	127	I	Acquisition: establish area through legislative action; work cooperatively with the City of Seward
		II	Planning: integrate recreation into regional tourism development
		II	Development: consider visual prominence of four hanging glaciers
		II	Special Management Considerations: maintain visual quality

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Safety Cove State Recreation Site- Marine Park System (proposed)	128	I II II II	Acquisition: include in Prince William Sound Marine Park legislation Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Driftwood Bay State Recreation Site- Marine Park System (proposed)	128	I II II II	Acquisition: include in Prince William Sound Marine Park legislation Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Sunny Cove State Recreation Site Marine Park System (proposed)	128	I II II II	Acquisition: include in Prince William Sound Marine Park legislation Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: work cooperatively with private landowners
Nuka Island (future consideration)	130	}	These areas may be included as units of the State Park System depending on recreational needs, use preferences and upon available funding.
Mouth of the Kasilof River State Recreation Area (future consideration)	130		

110

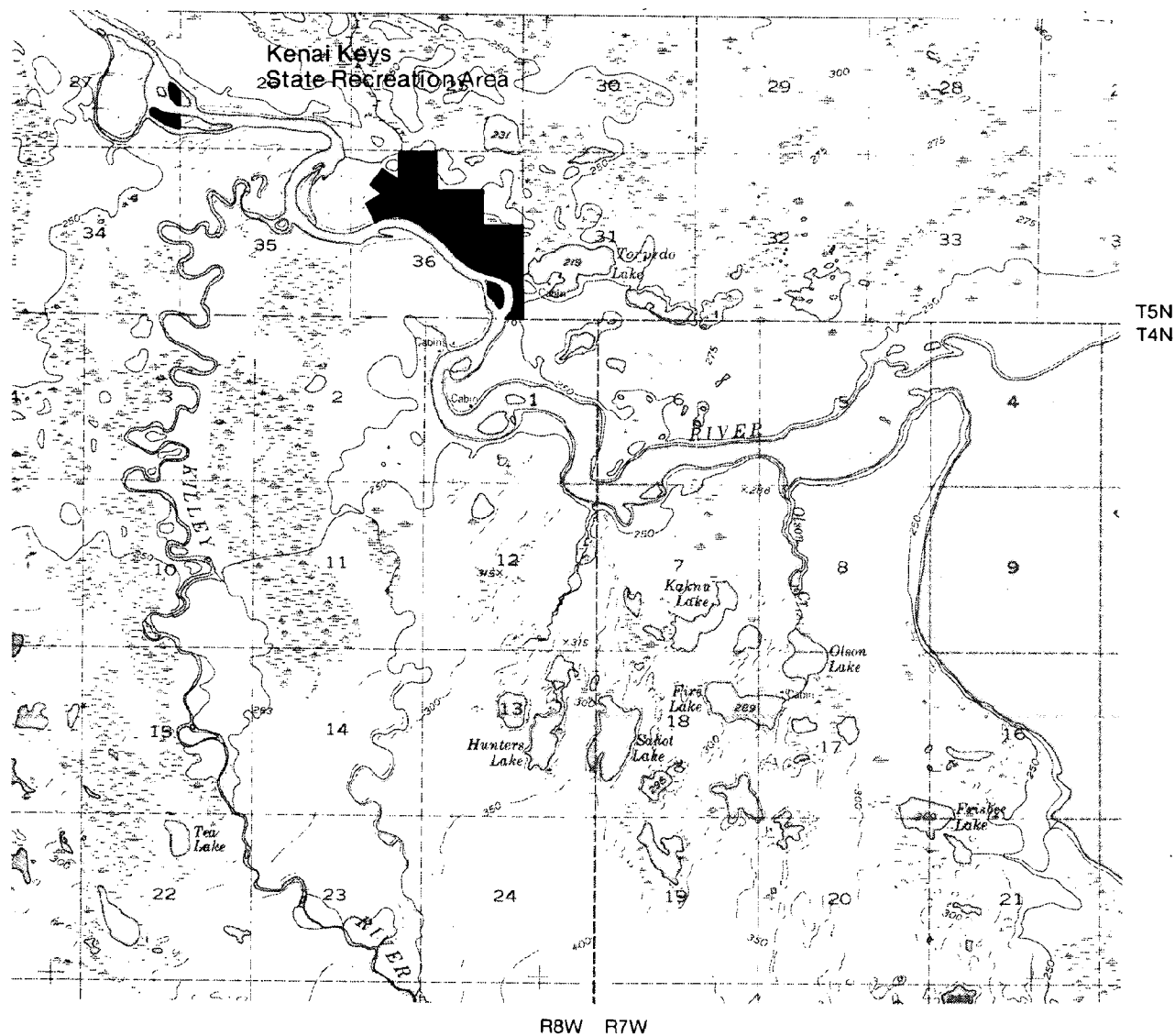
USGS Maps:
Kenai B2

**Existing
Park Land**

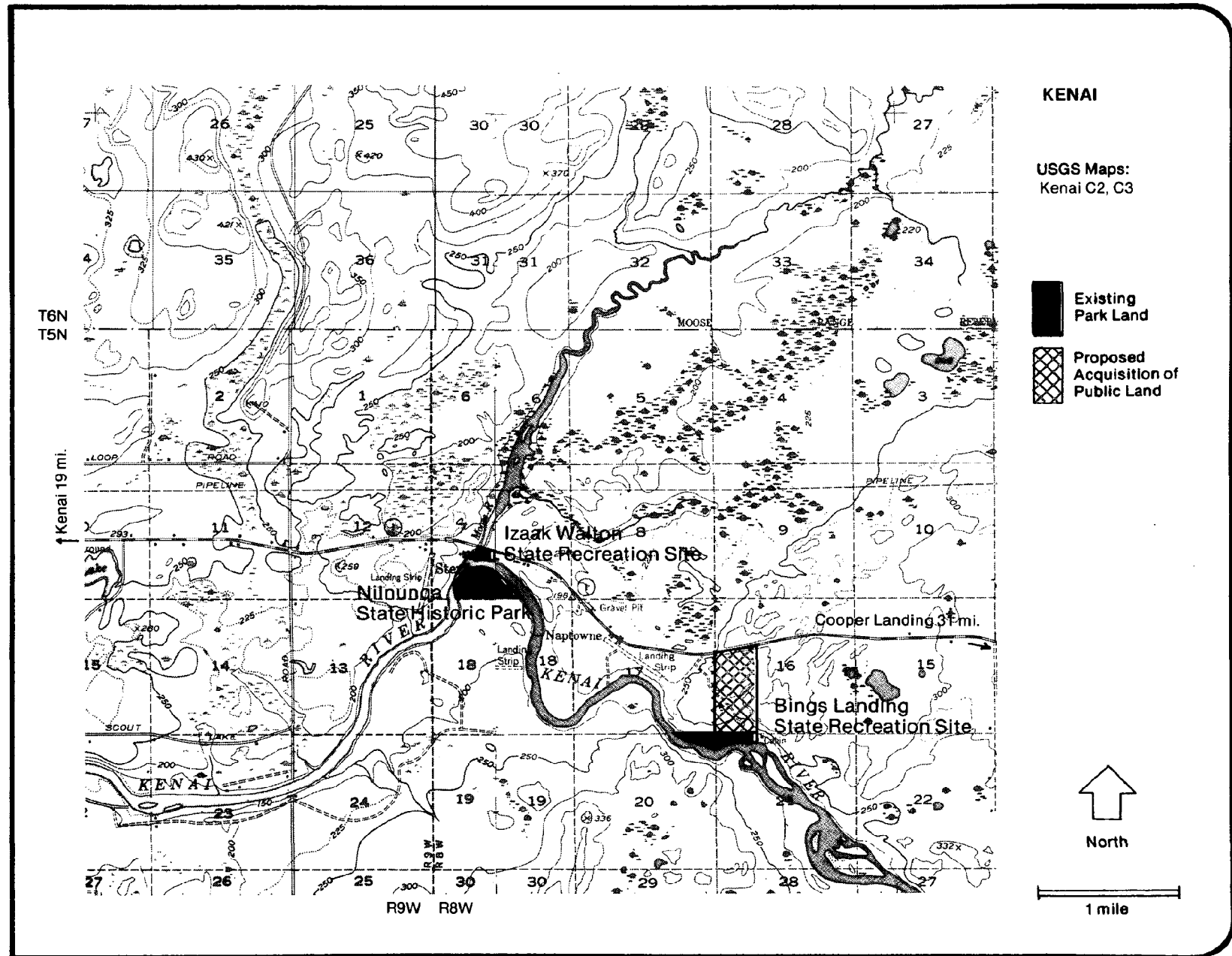


North

1 mile







BINGS LANDING SRS/IZAACK WALTON SRS/NILNUNQA SHP



SCOUT LAKE SRS/MORGAN'S LANDING SRA/FUNNY RIVER SRS

KENAI

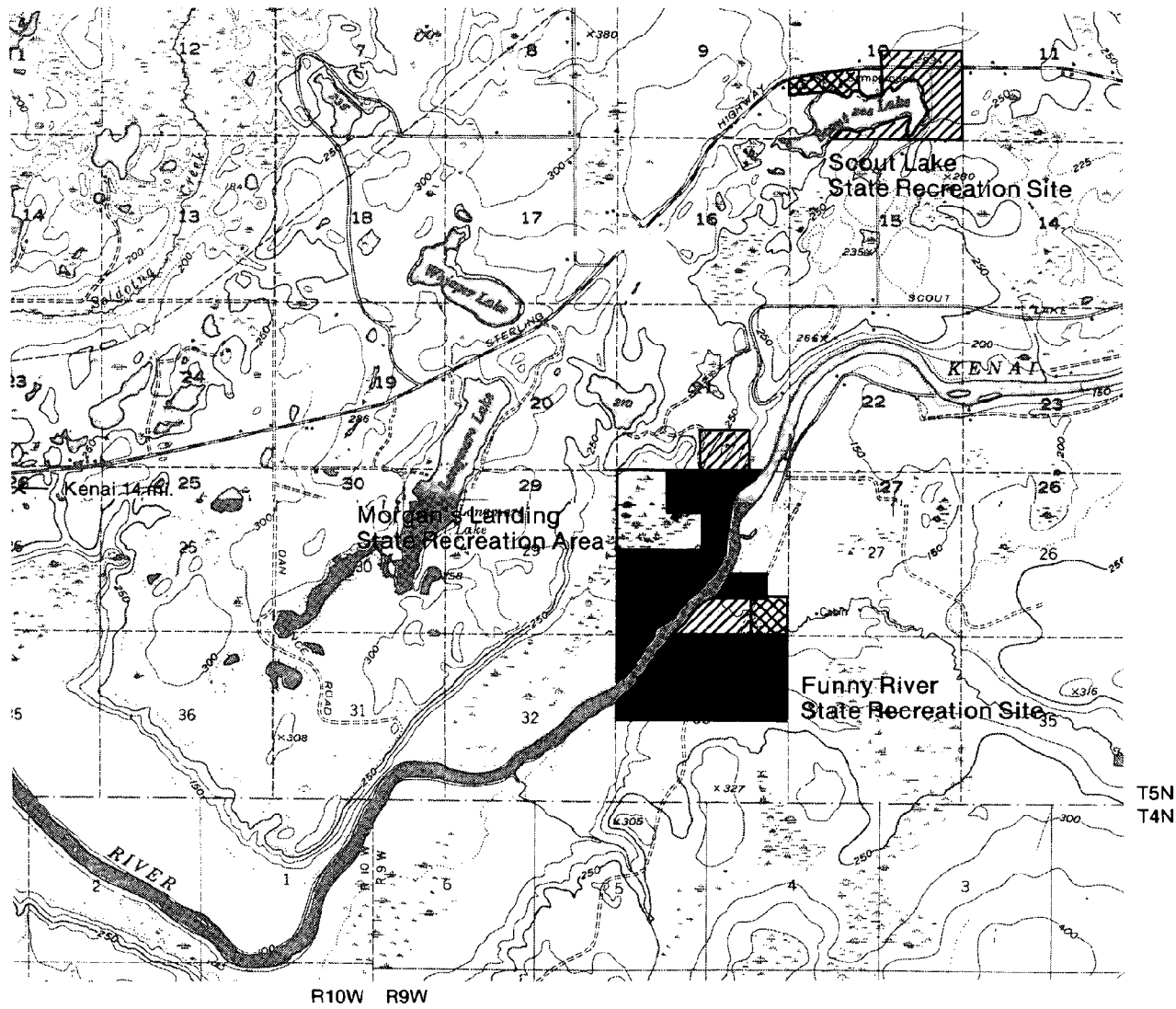
USGS Maps:
Kenai B3, C3

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Private Land
-  Cooperative Management Land



North

1 mile

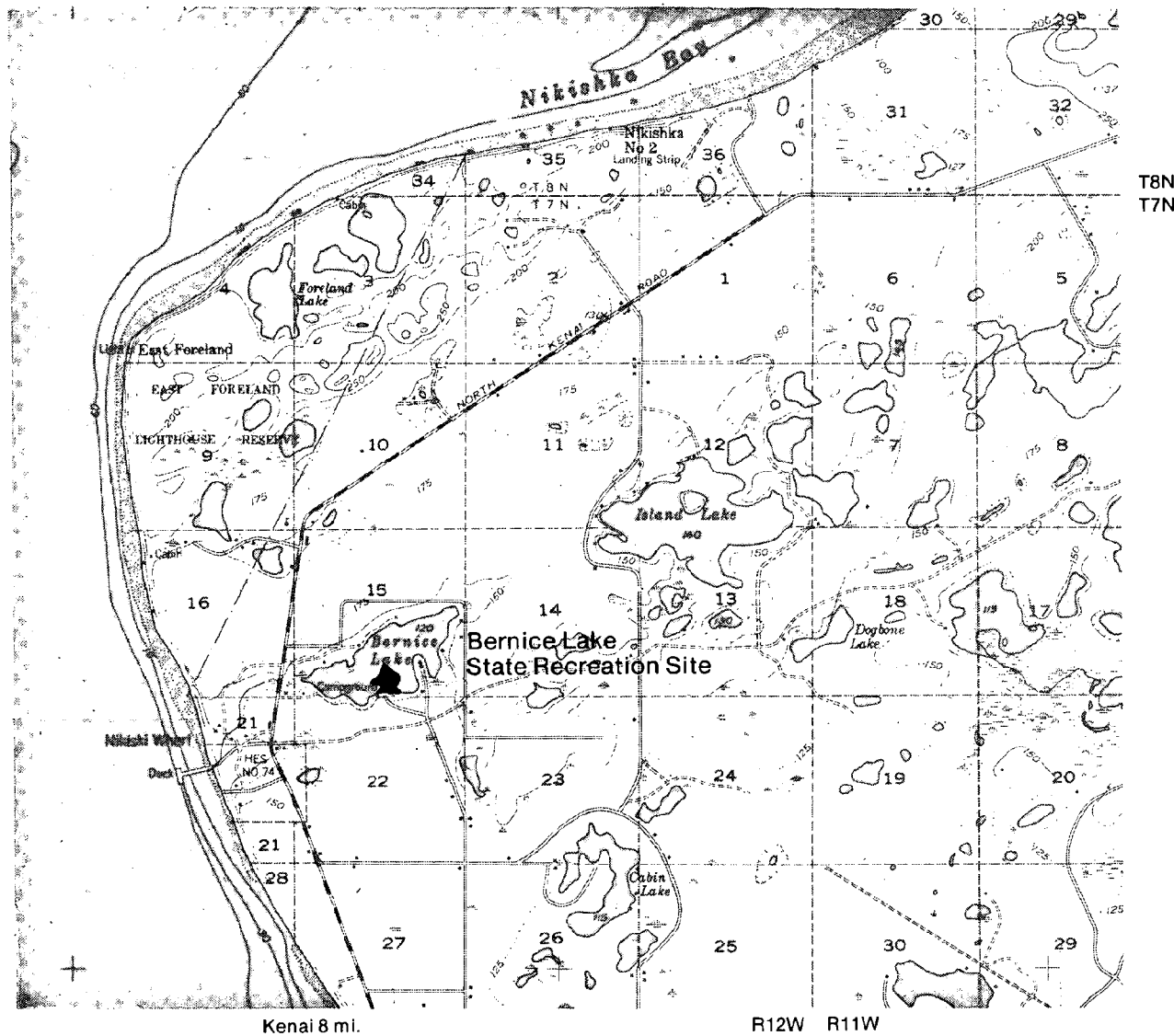
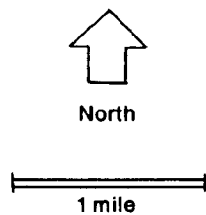


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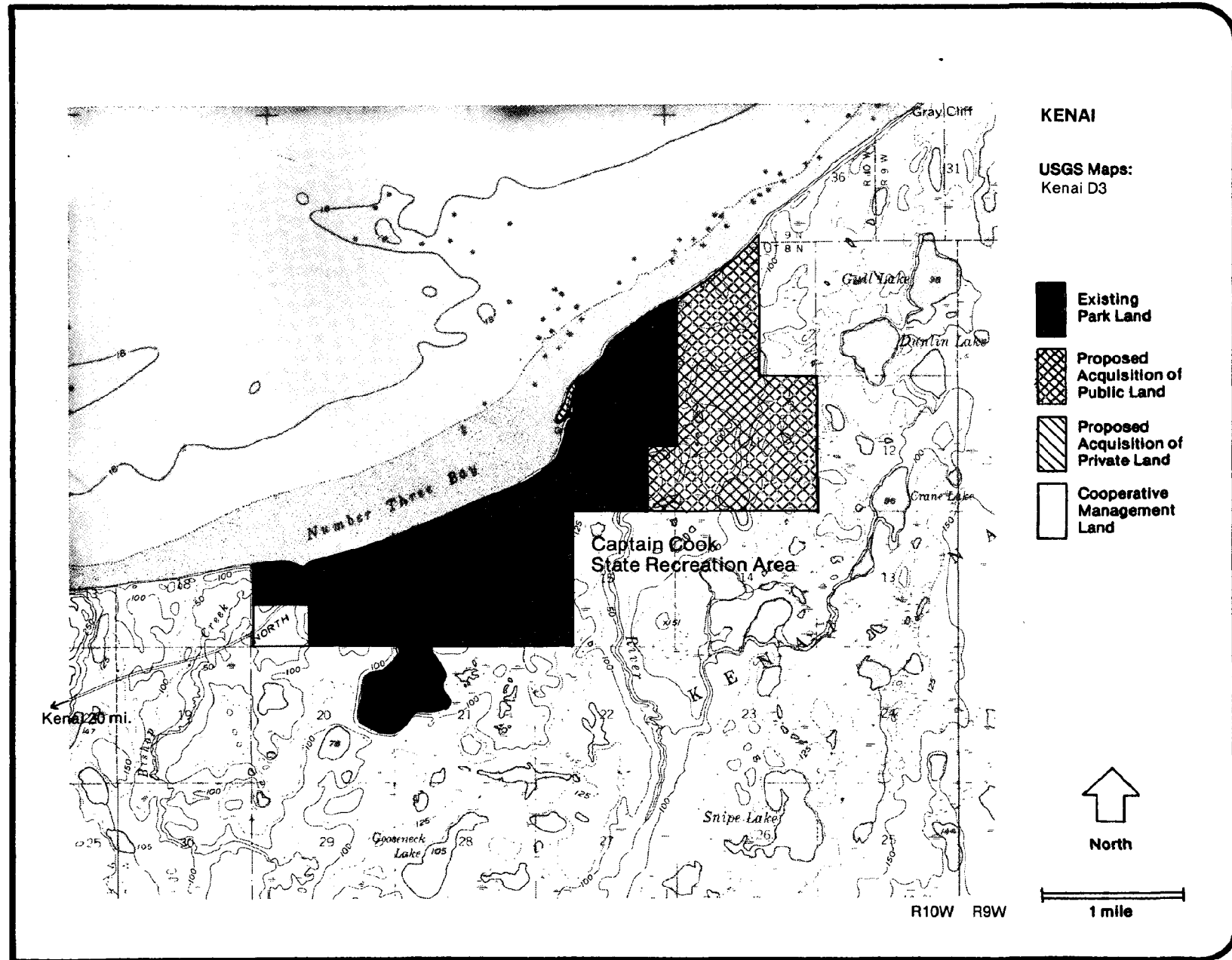
BERNICE LAKE SRS

USGS Maps:
Kenai C4

 Proposed Deletion
of Existing
Park Land



CAPTAIN COOK SRA



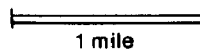
GEORGIEVSK REDOUBT SHP

KENAI

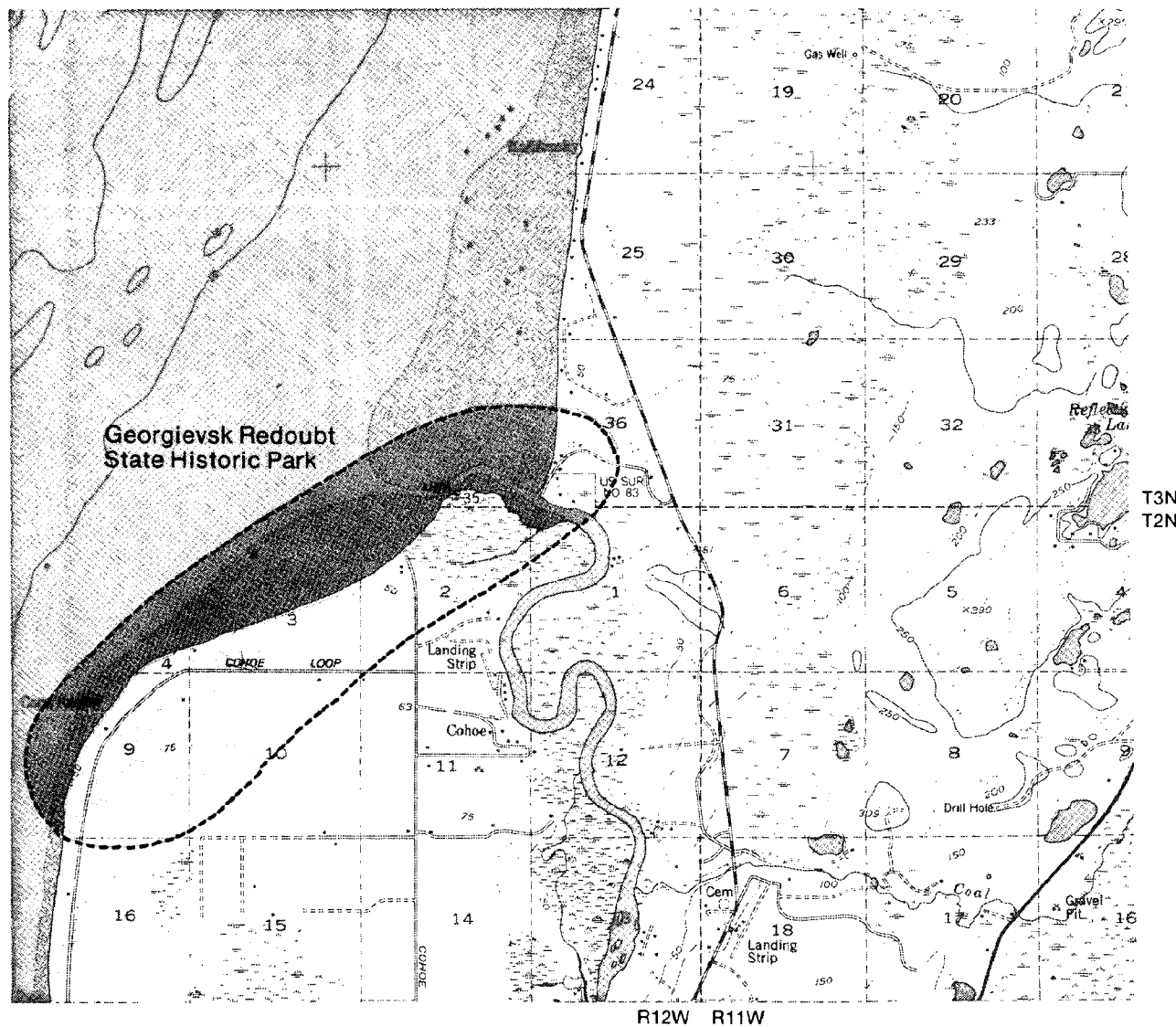
USGS Maps:
Kenai B4



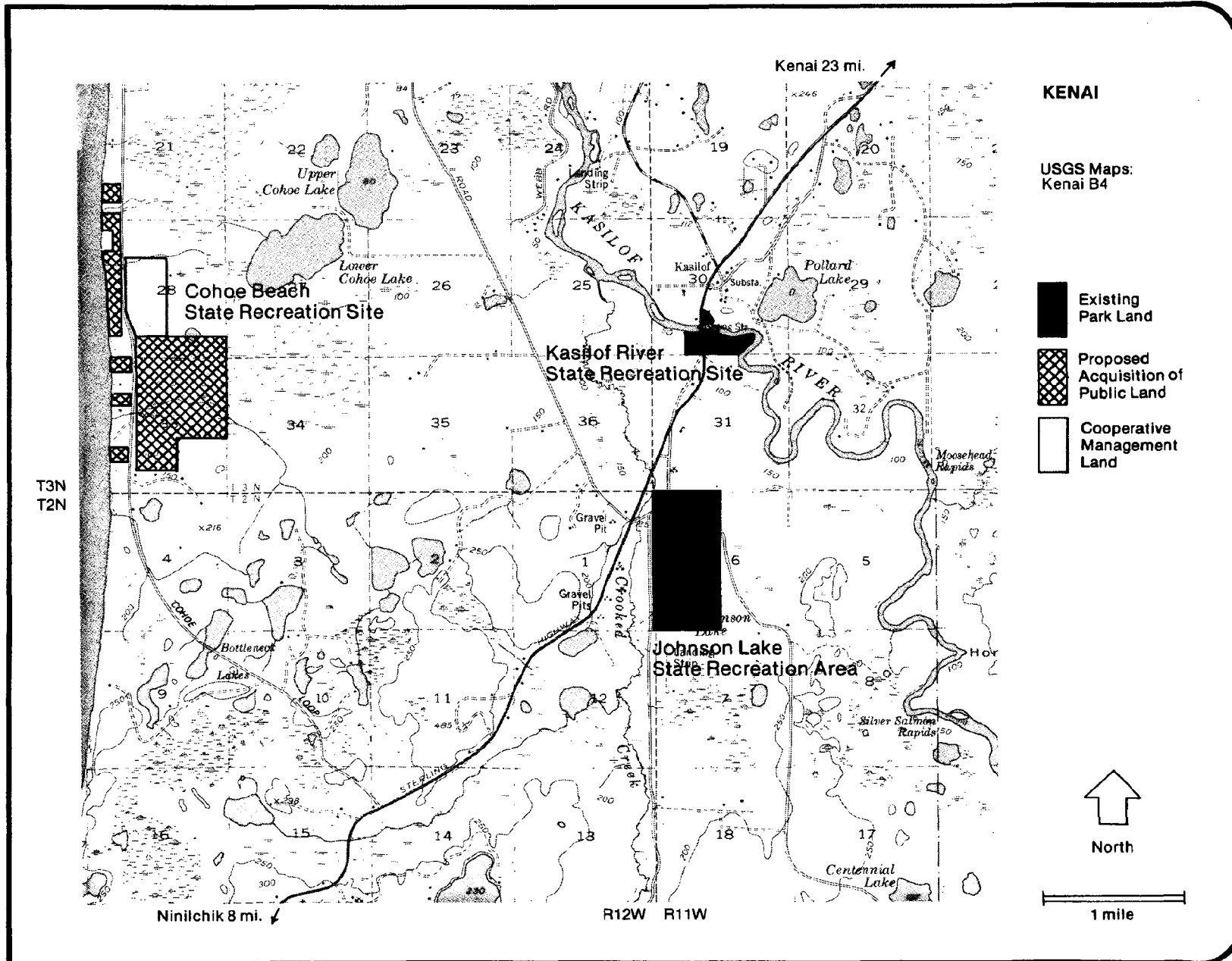
North



1 mile



COHOE BEACH SRS/KASILOF RIVER SRS/JOHNSON LAKE SRA



CLAM GULCH SRA

KENAI

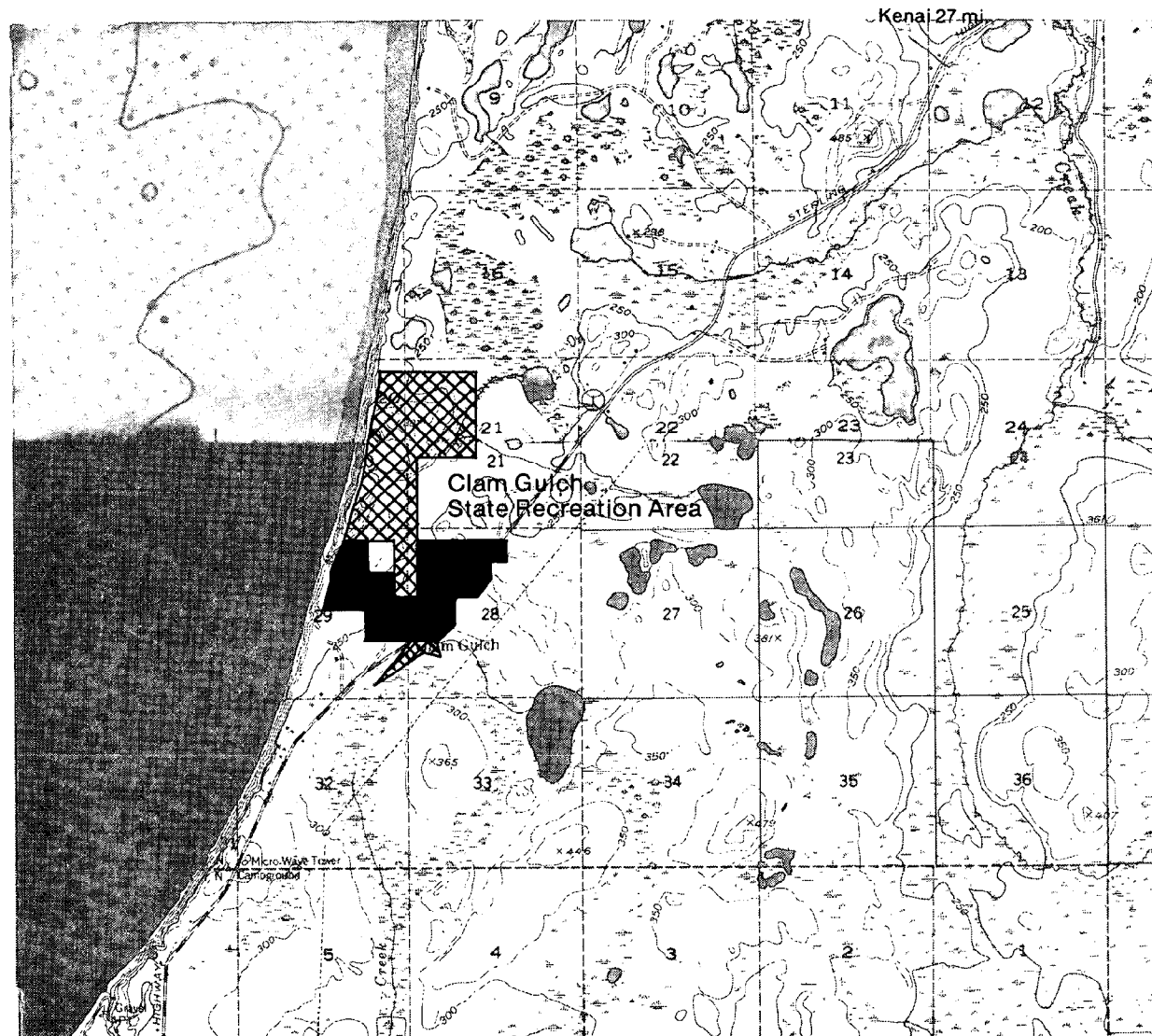
USGS Maps:
Kenai A4

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land



North

1 mile

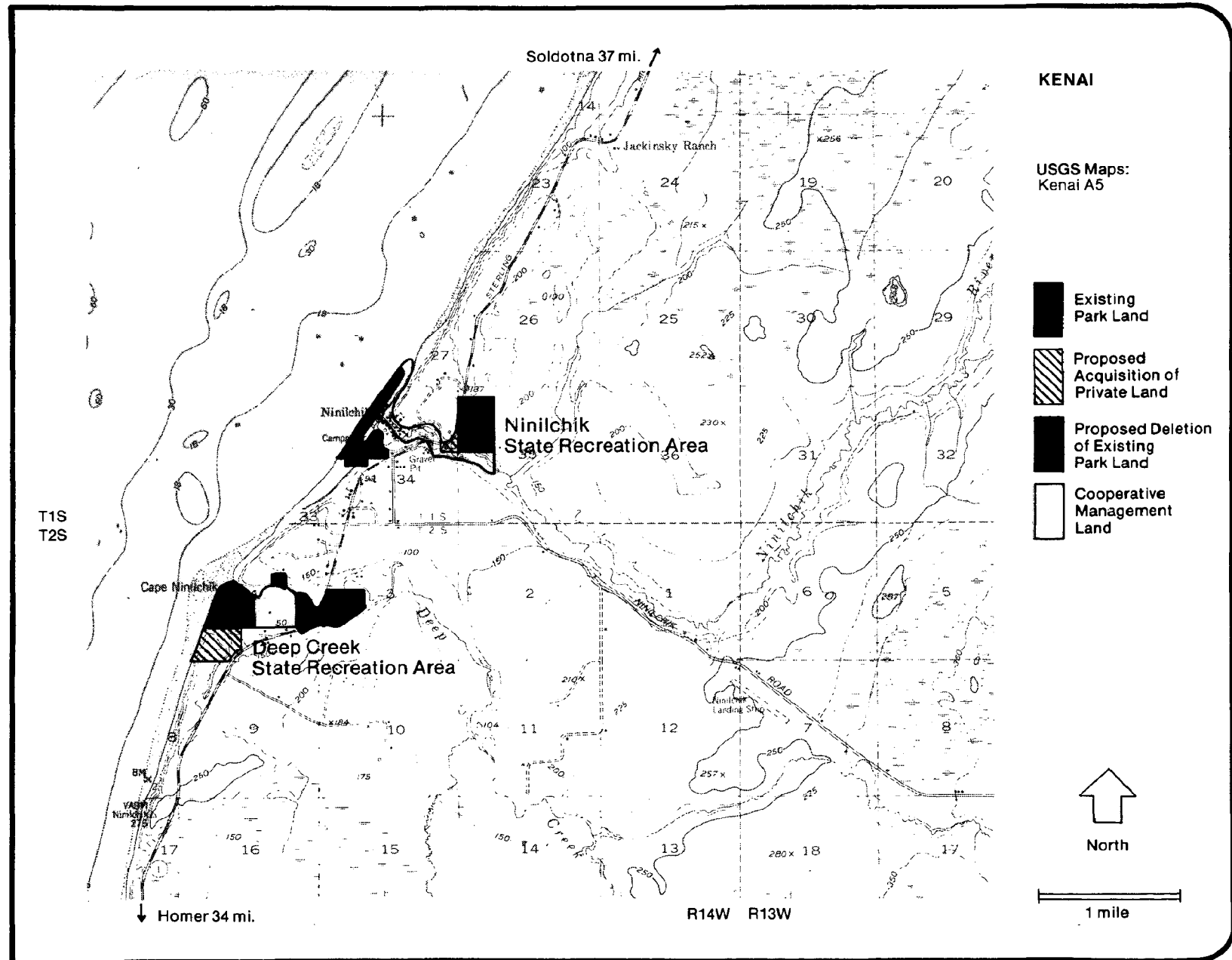


Homer 41 mi.

R12W R11W

T2N
T1N





NINILCHIK SRA/DEEP CREEK SRA



STARISKI SRS/WHISKEY GULCH SRS

KENAI

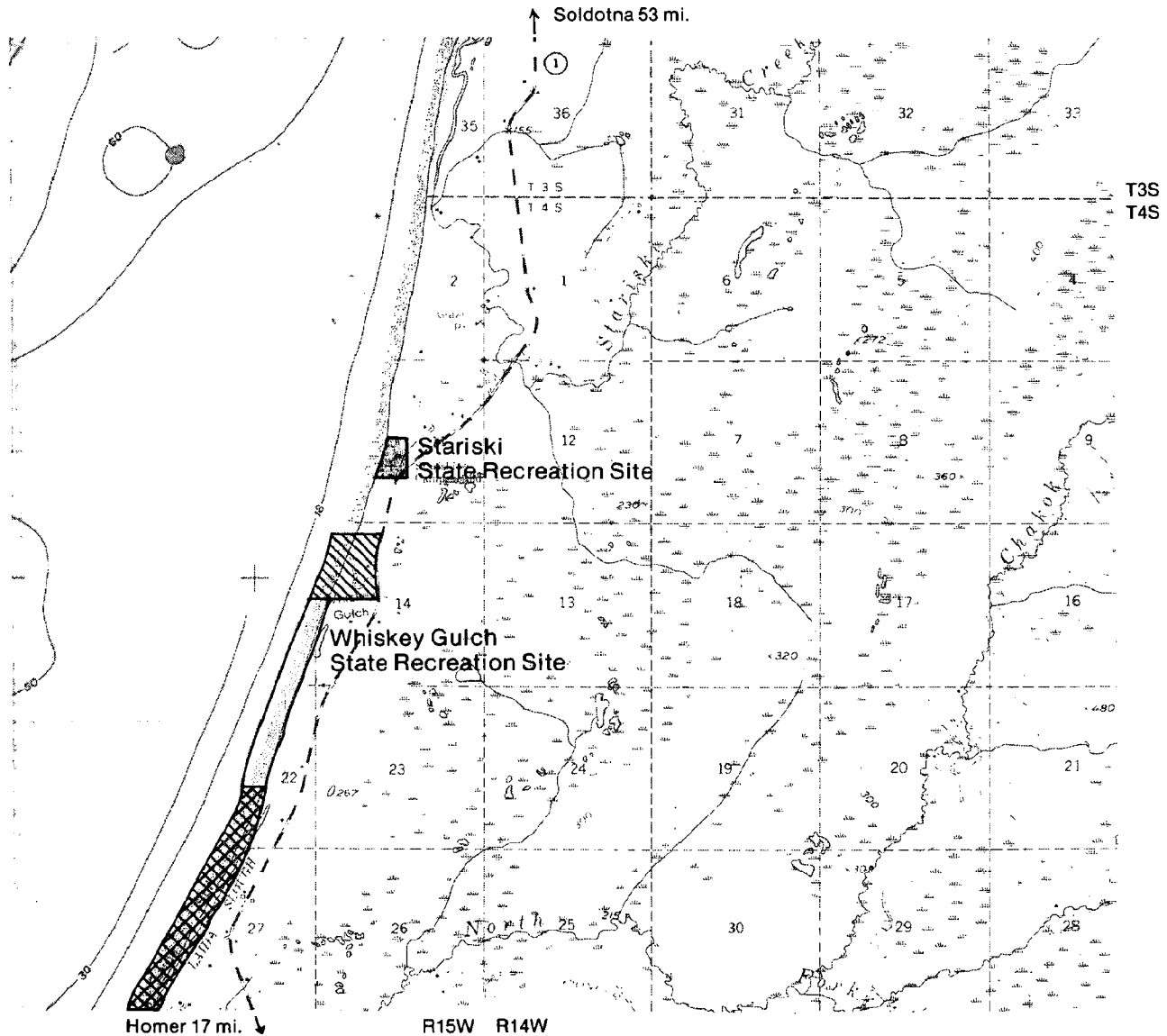
USGS Maps:
Seldovia D5

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Private Land
-  Cooperative Management Land

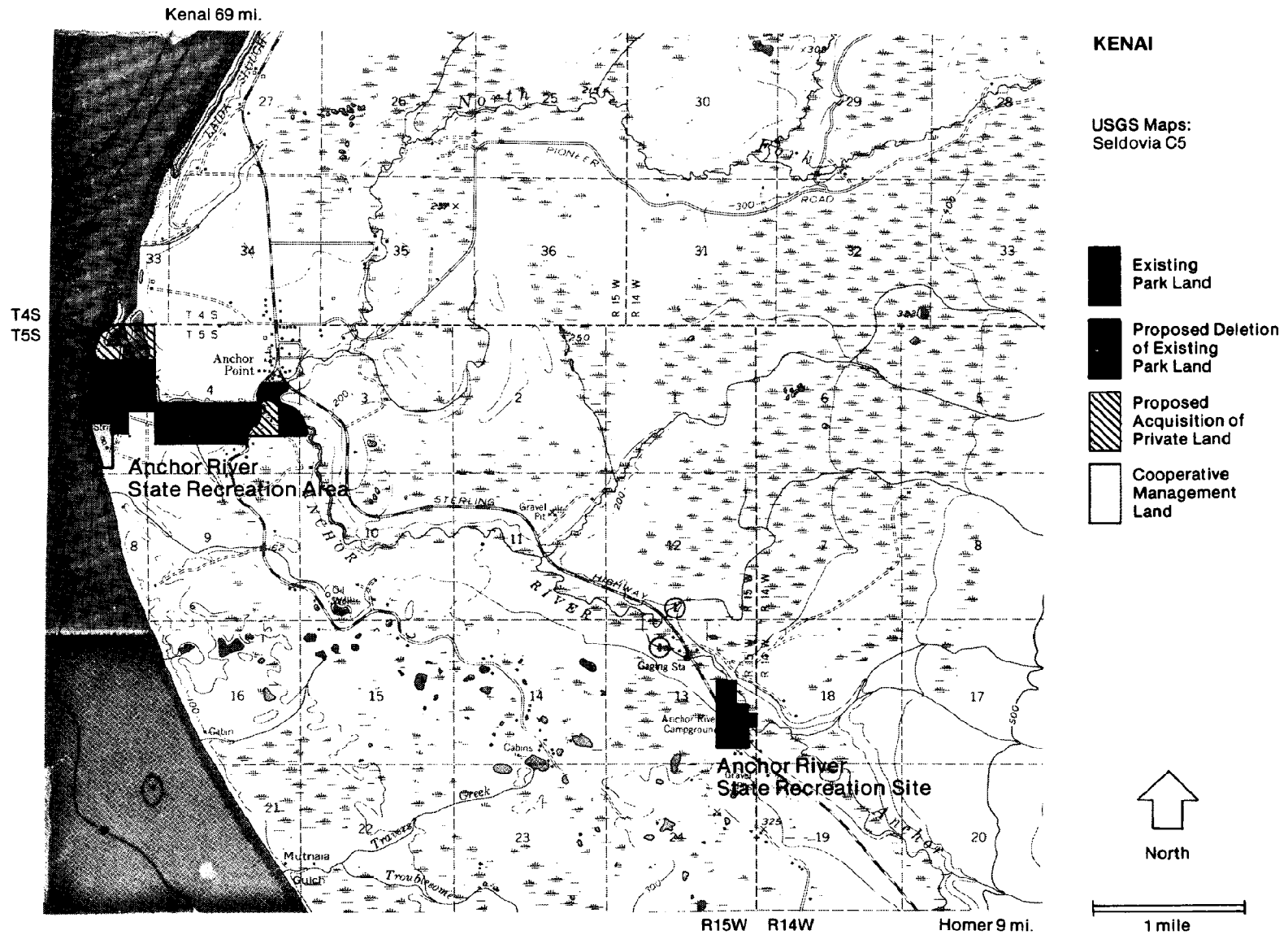


North

1 mile



ANCHOR RIVER SRA/ANCHOR RIVER SRS



HOMER SPIT

KENAI


USGS Maps:
Seldovia C6, C5

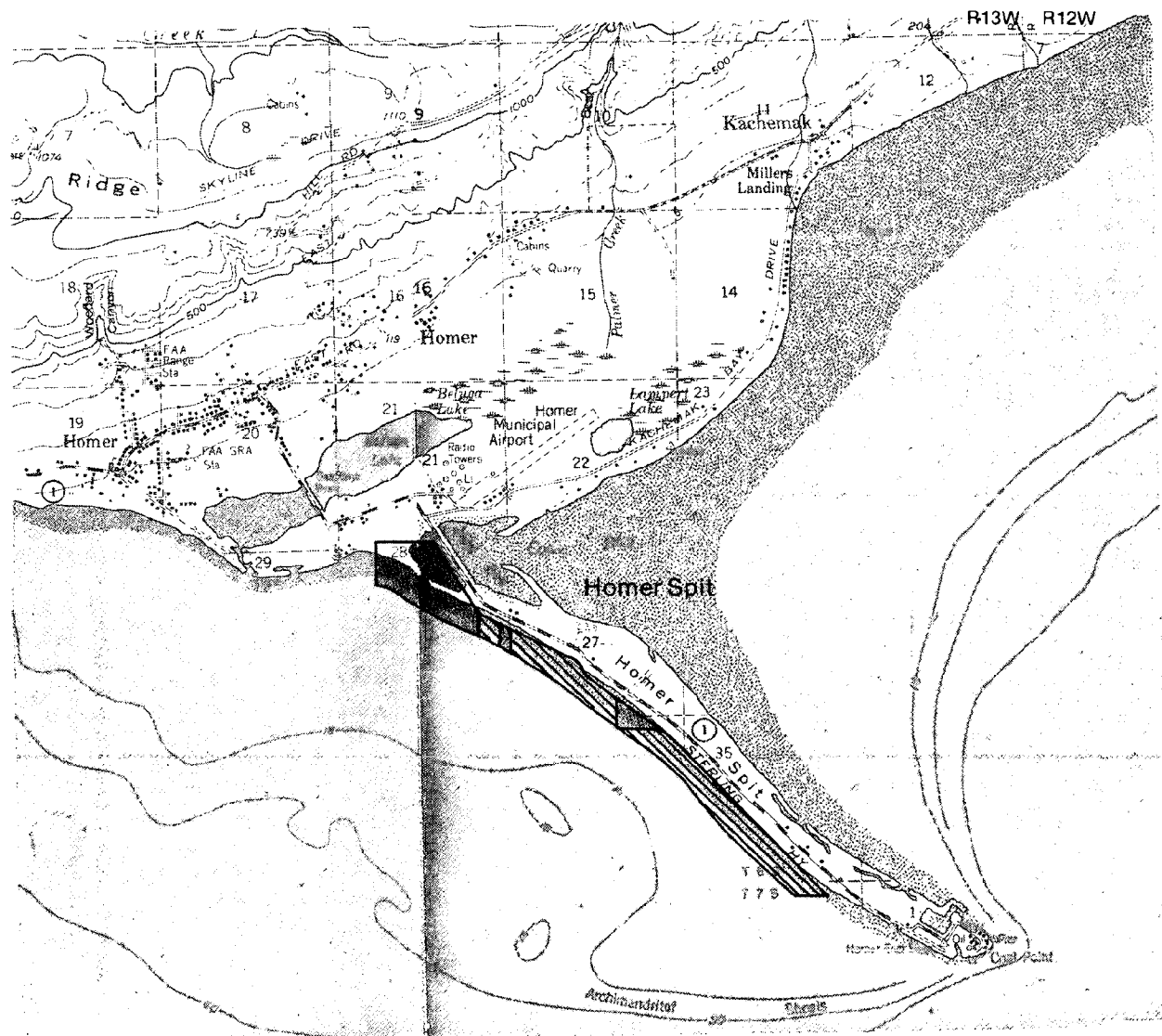
 Proposed
Acquisition of
Private Land

 Cooperative
Management
Land



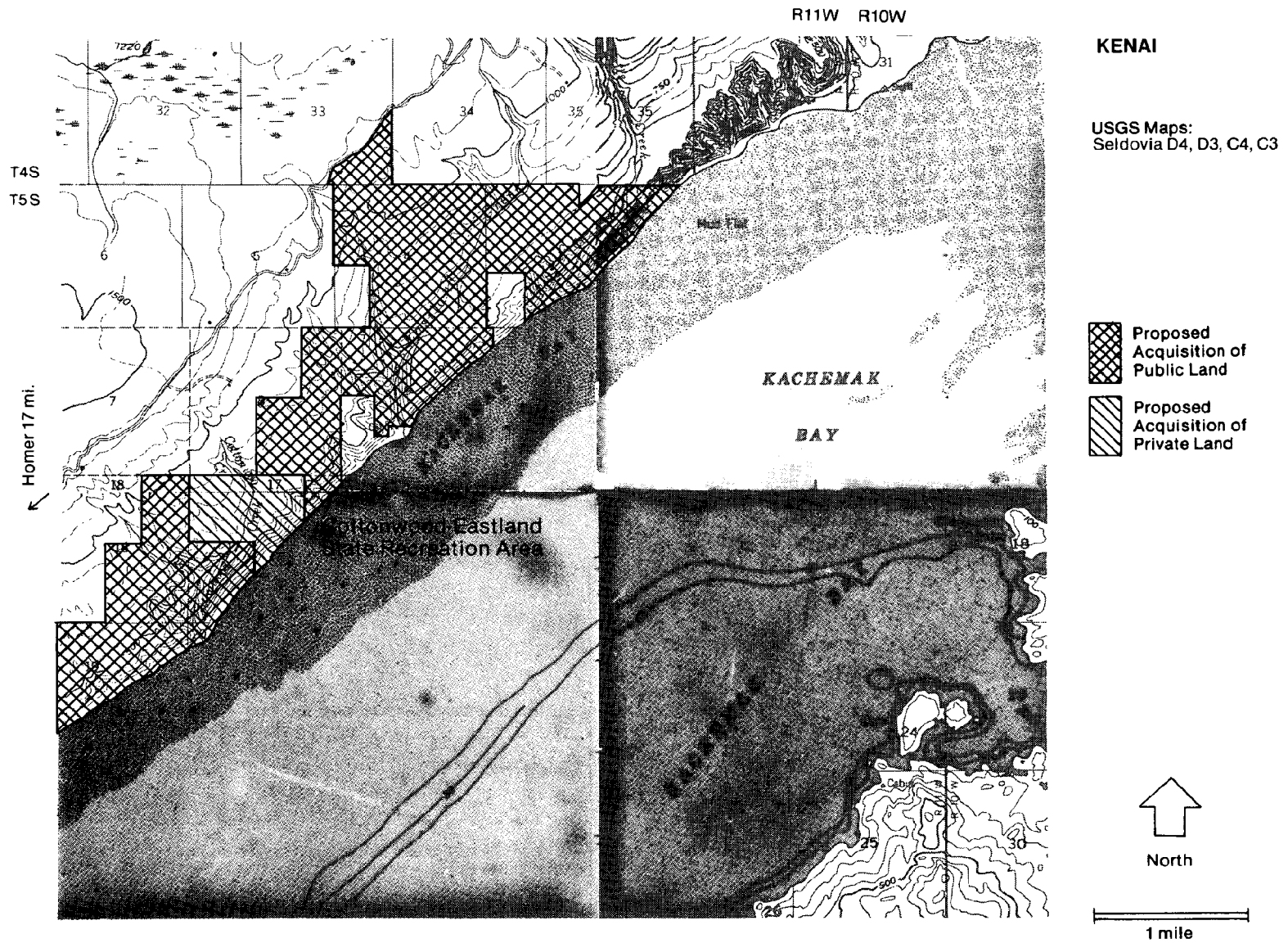
North


1 mile

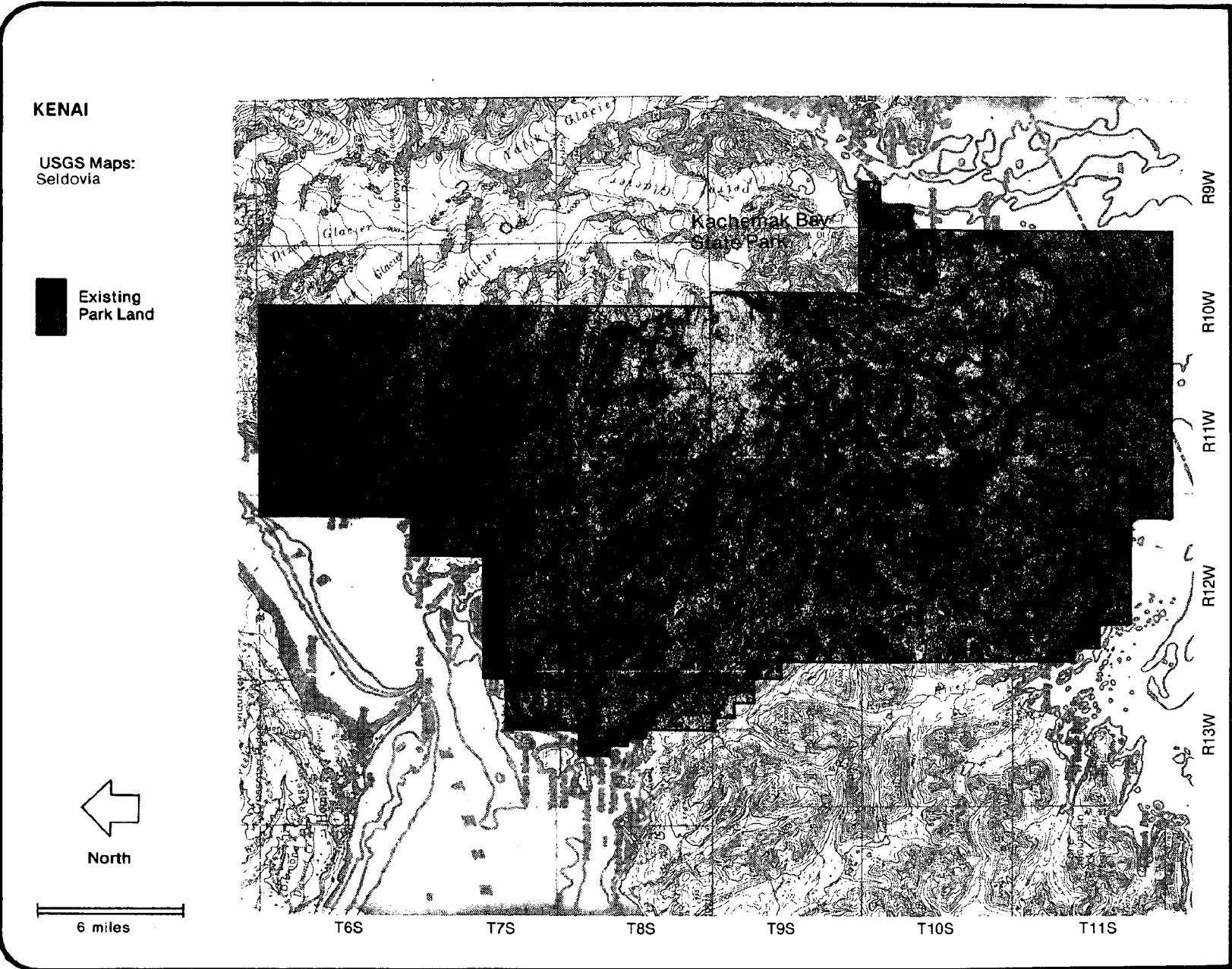


T6S
T7S

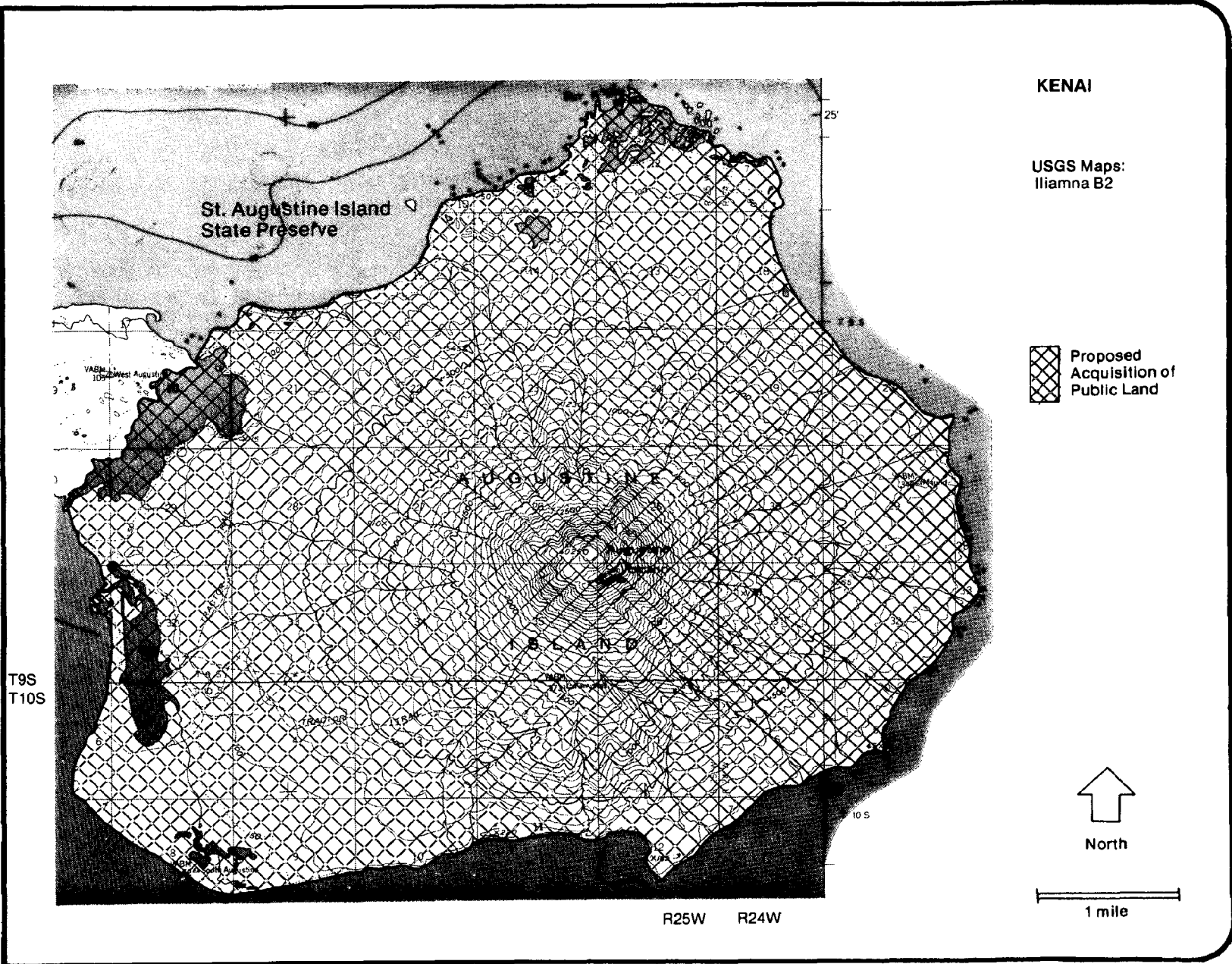
COTTONWOOD-EASTLAND SRA



KACHEMAK BAY SP



ST. AUGUSTINE ISLAND SP



CAINES HEAD SRA/THUMBS COVE SRS

KENAI

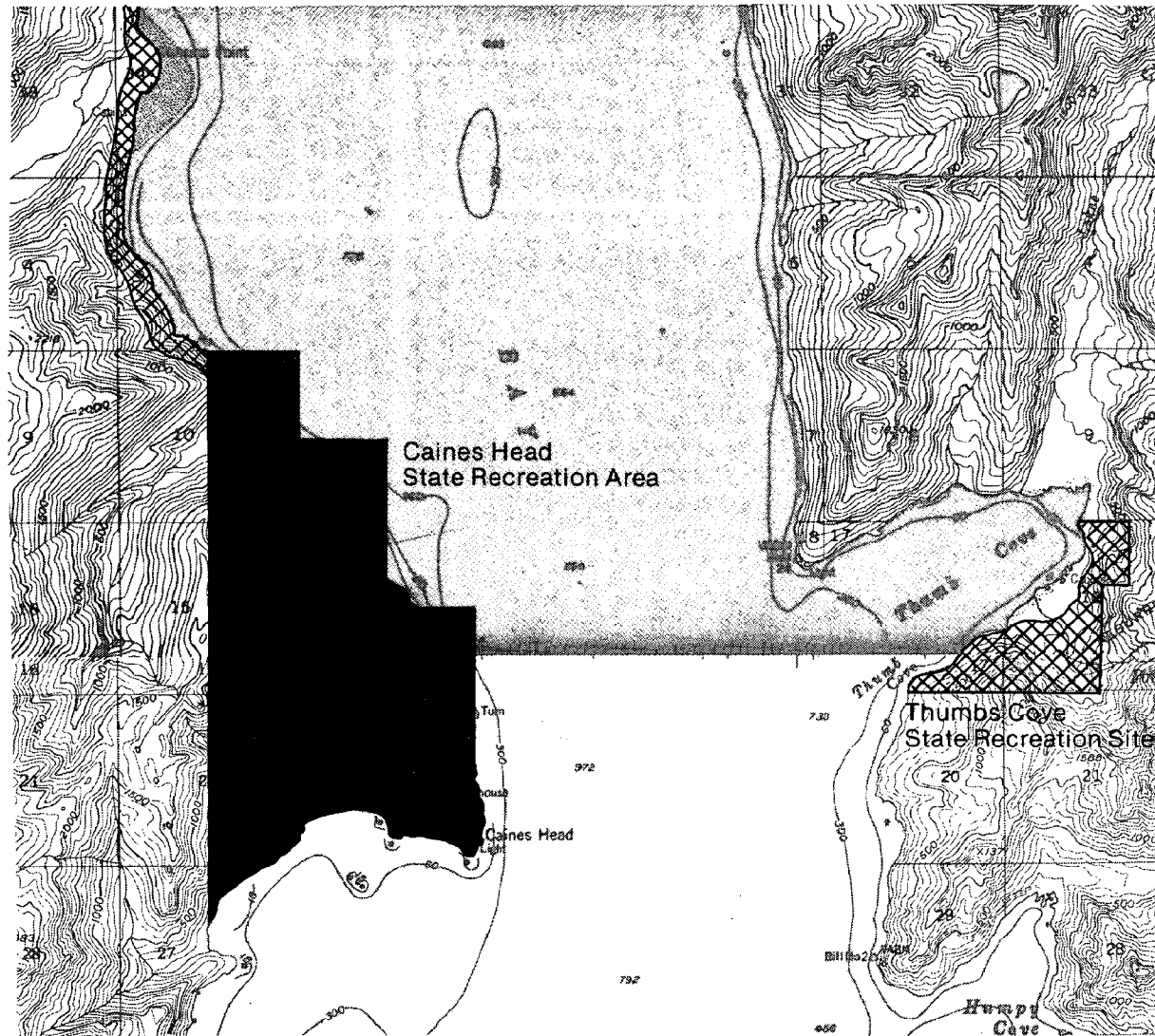
USGS Maps:
Blying Sound D7
Seward A7

-  Existing Park Land
-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land



North

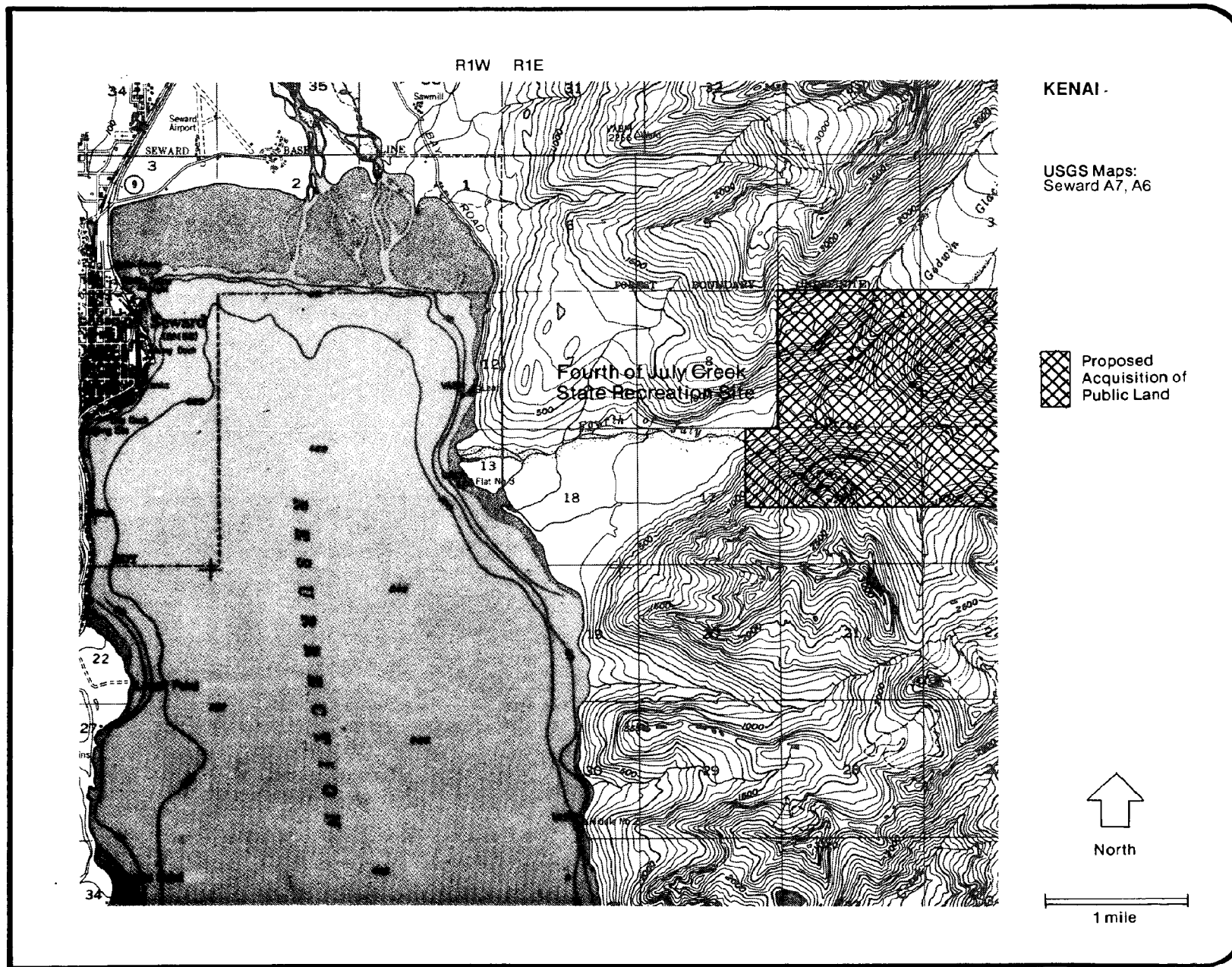
1 mile



T1S
T2S

R1W R1E


FOURTH OF JULY CREEK SRS



SAFETY COVE SRS/DRIFTWOOD BAY SRS/SUNNY COVE SRS


KENAI

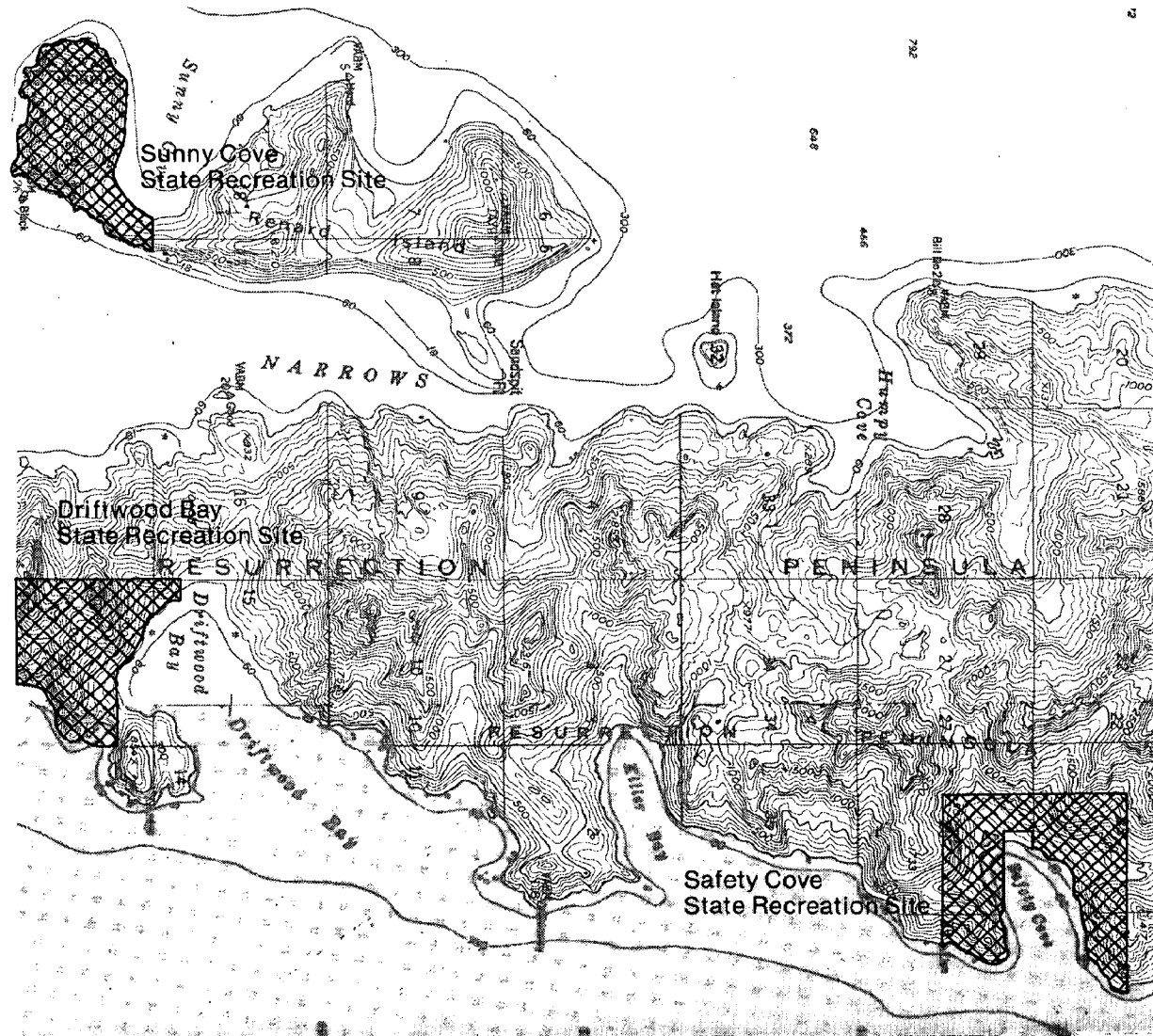
USGS Maps:
Blying Sound D7, D6

 Proposed
Acquisition of
Public Land

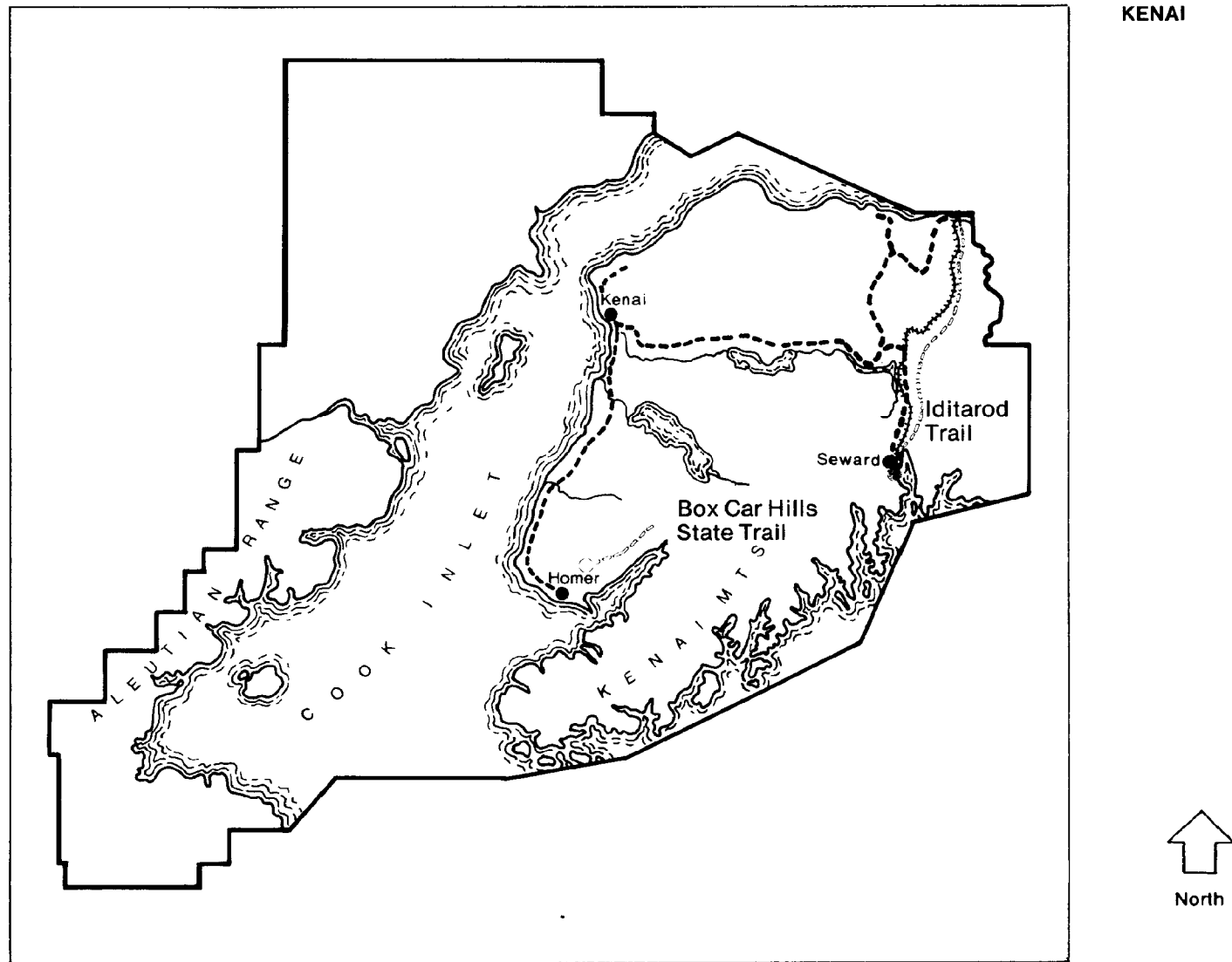


North


1 mile

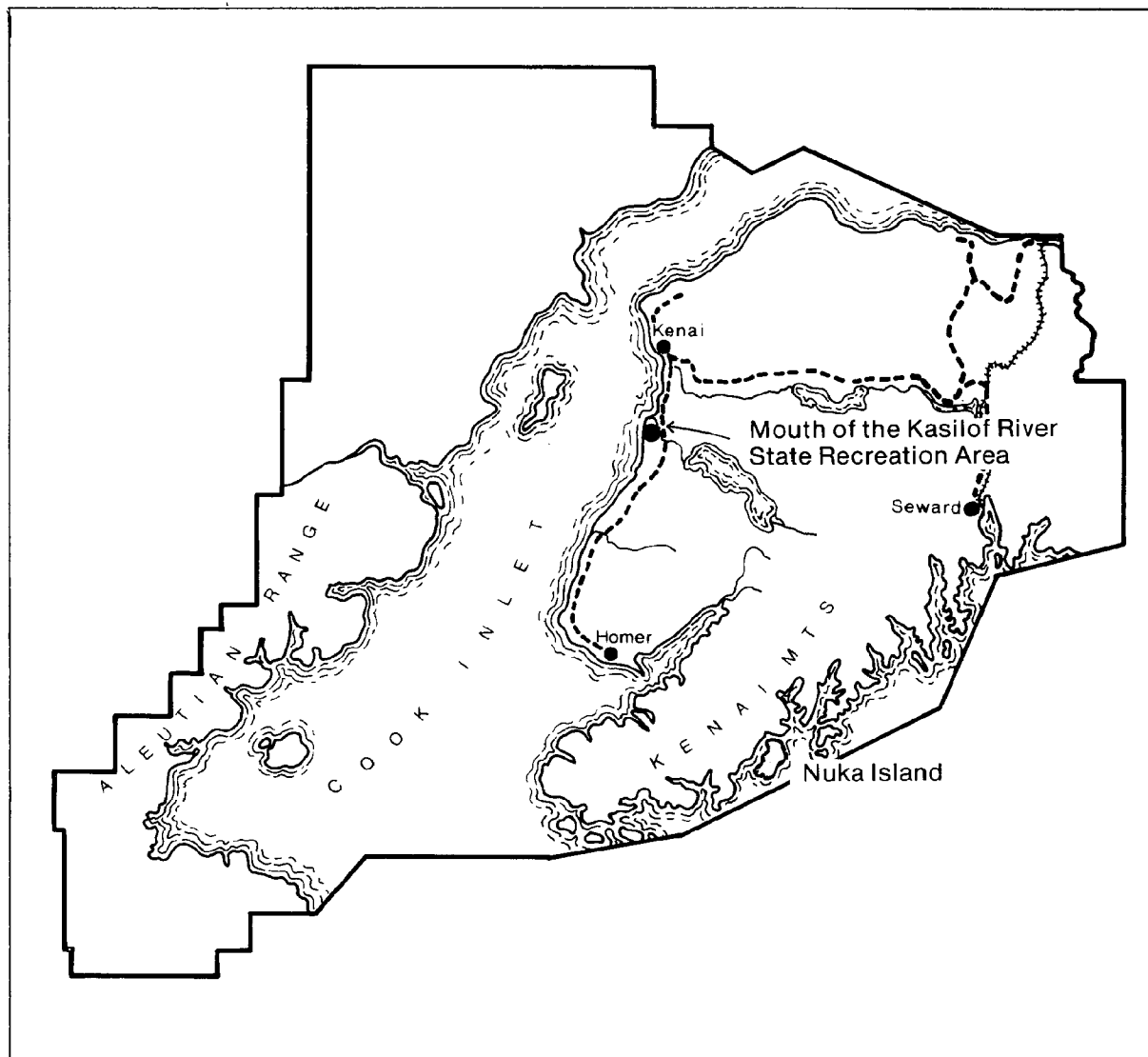


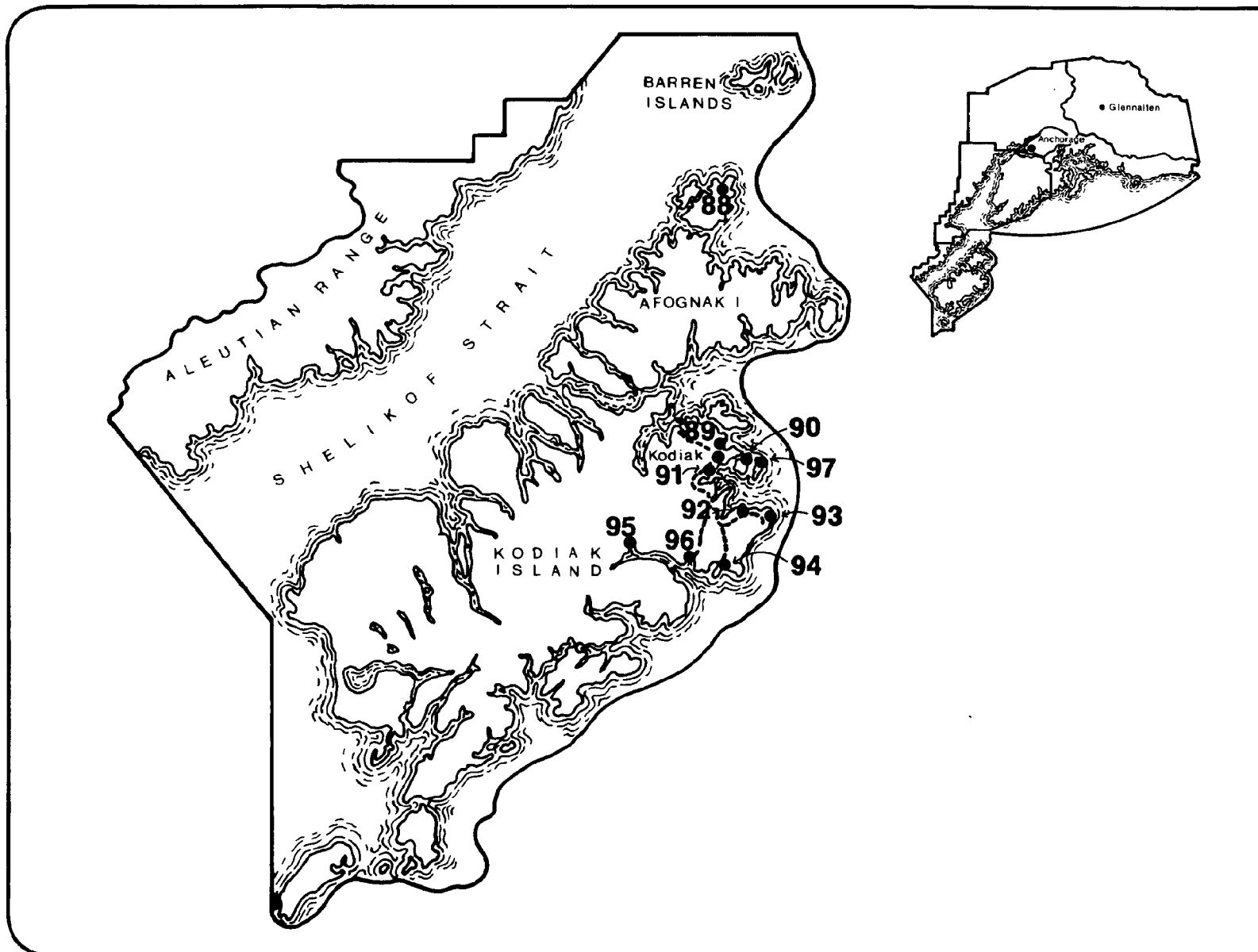
STATE RECREATION RIVERS & STATE TRAILS



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

KENAI





Kodiak Islands Subregion

88. Shuyak Island SP
89. Fort Abercrombie SHP
90. Woody Island SRS
91. Buskin River SRS
92. Roslyn Beach SRS
93. Cape Chiniak SRA
94. Pasagshak SRS
95. Hidden Basin SRA
96. Saultry Cove SRS
97. Long Island SP

ISSUES

- lack of public recreation developments
- limited public lands along road system
- need for access across private lands to public lands

PUBLIC PREFERENCE

- develop road-accessible recreational facilities
- preserve coastal character
- maintain public access
- develop marine park sites

OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Kodiak Island National Wildlife Refuge - remote backcountry pursuits, boat-oriented hunting
- Private: lodges, guiding services and charters
- U.S. Coast Guard: public recreational land base
- Community: school-related recreational programs

SUBREGION CHARACTERISTICS

- coastal influence of Pacific Ocean and beaches
- forest and grasslands, sheltered bays
- historic Native and Russian cultures and World War II remains

STATE PARK REPRESENTATION

- **EXISTING:** examples of World War II and coastal environments
- **NEEDED:** representation of coastline recreational diversity, road-accessible areas, Russian and Native history and marine park sites

Kodiak Islands Subregion Recommendations

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Shuyak Island State Park (proposed)	136	I II III III	Acquisition: cooperate with Kodiak Island Borough to obtain legislative establishment of area as a State Park Planning: prepare management plan; define access points and modes of access Development: implement management plan Special Management Considerations: establish staffing, visitor services and information program
Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park (existing)	137	II II I	Planning: update management plan Development: implement existing site plan Special Management Considerations: protect cultural features from recreational impact
Woody Island State Recreation Site (proposed)	138	I II II	Acquisition: obtain 80 acres by administrative action Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan
Buskin River State Recreation Site (existing)	138	II III I	Acquisition: obtain cooperative agreement for parcel near entrance Planning: consider future expansion needs and develop management plan Development: implement existing site plan
Roslyn Beach State Recreation Site (proposed)	139	II II II	Acquisition: obtain 600 acres by administrative action Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan
Cape Chiniak State Recreation Area (proposed)	139	III III III	Acquisition: obtain 1800 acres by purchase or exchange, or obtain a management agreement with Koniag, Inc. Planning: prepare management plan Development: implement management plan

UNIT	MAP PAGE #	PHASE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Pasagshak State Recreation Site (existing)	140	III	<p>Acquisition: obtain joint use agreement with the Bureau of Land Management and grazing lease-holders for Pasagshak Point and Narrow Cape area</p> <p>Planning: prepare management plan for expanded area</p> <p>Development: implement existing site plan and develop existing funded projects</p> <p>These areas may be included as units of the State Park System depending on recreational needs, use preferences and upon available funding.</p>
Hidden Basin State Recreation Area (future consideration)	141	III	
Saultry Cove State Recreation Site (future consideration)	141	I	
Long Island State Park (future consideration)	141		

SHUYAK ISLAND SP

KODIAK ISLANDS

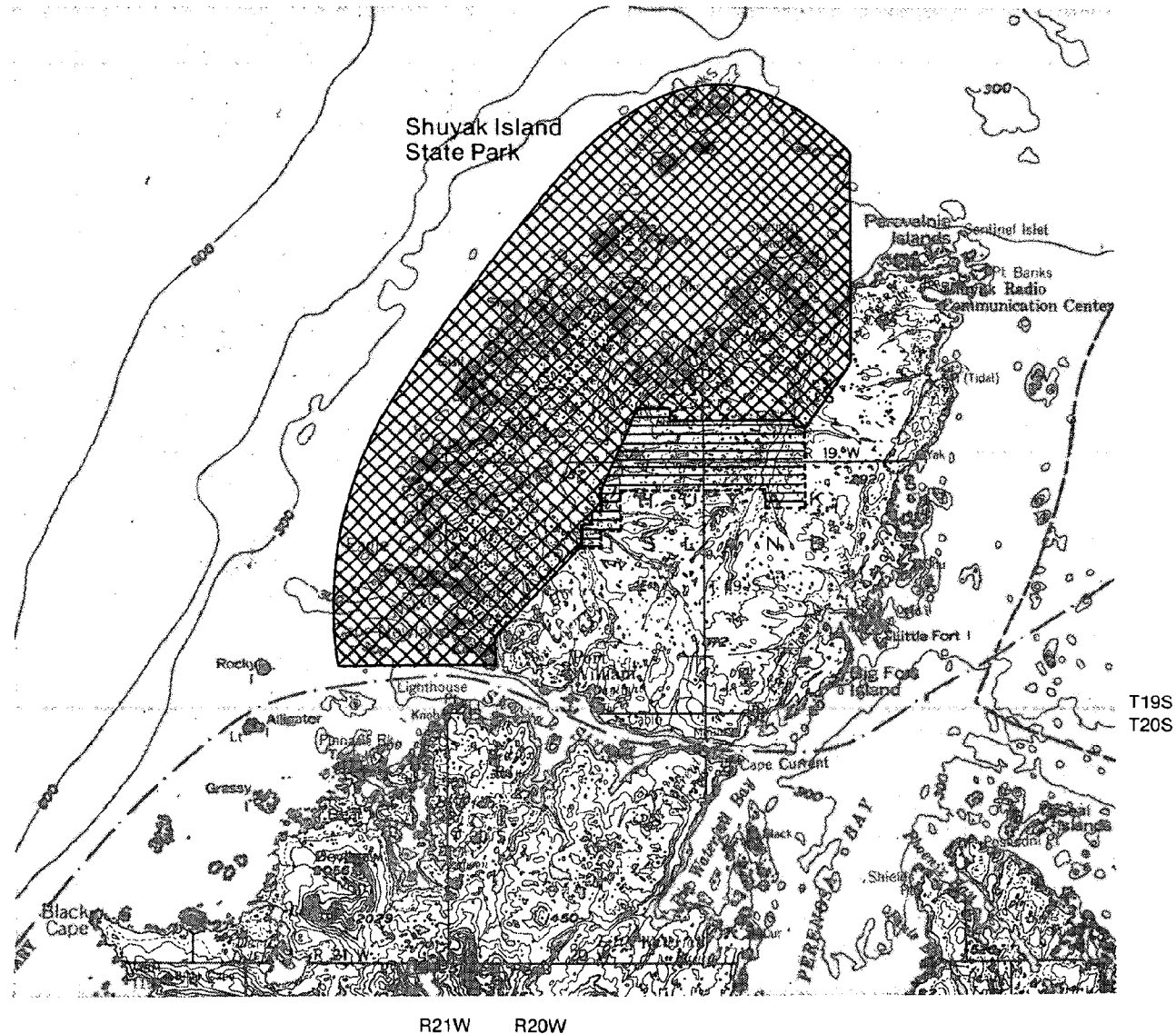
USGS Maps:
Afognak

-  Proposed Acquisition of Public Land
-  Potential Addition of Public Land

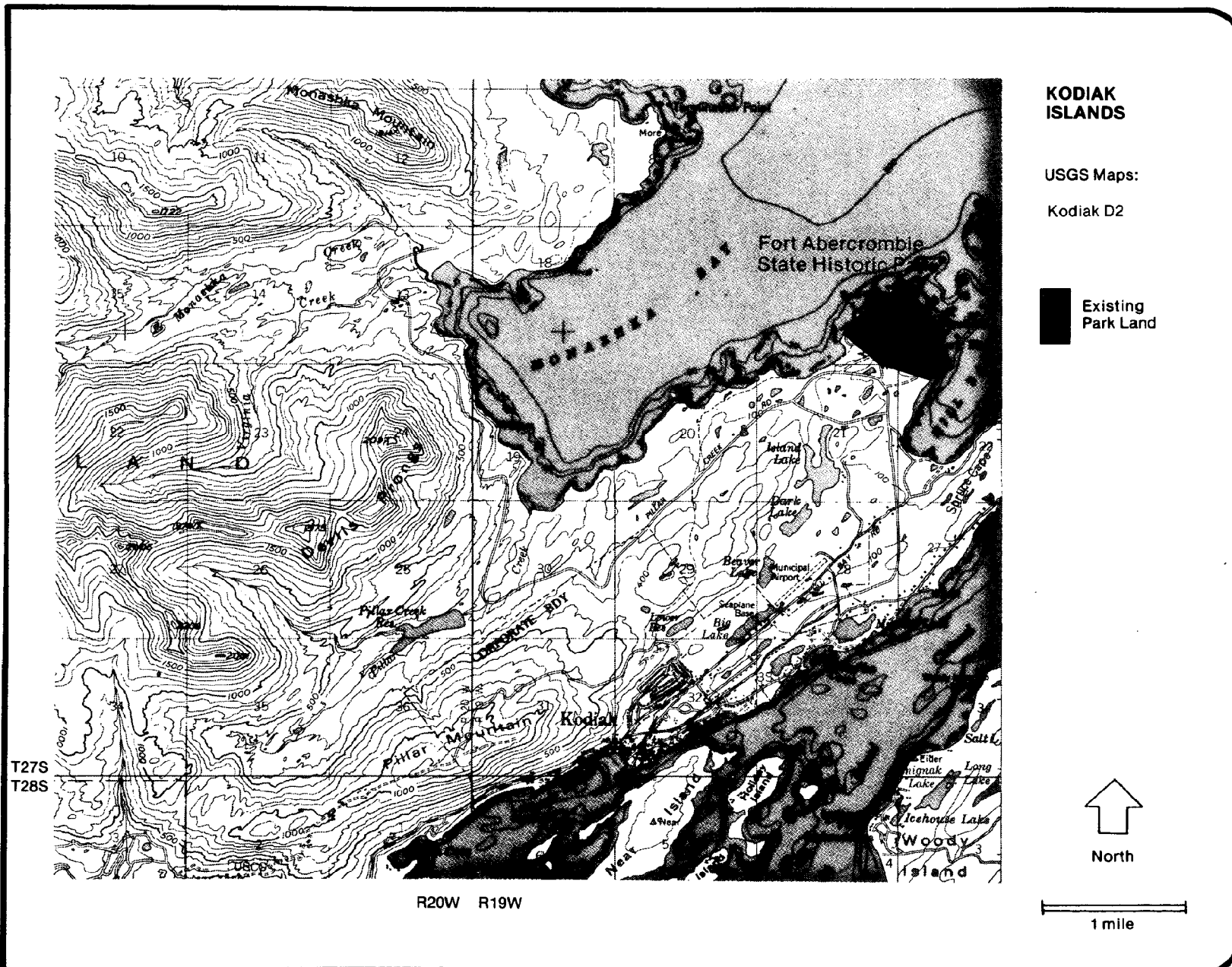


North

4 miles



FORT ABERCROMBIE SHP



WOODY ISLAND SRS/BUSKIN RIVER SRS

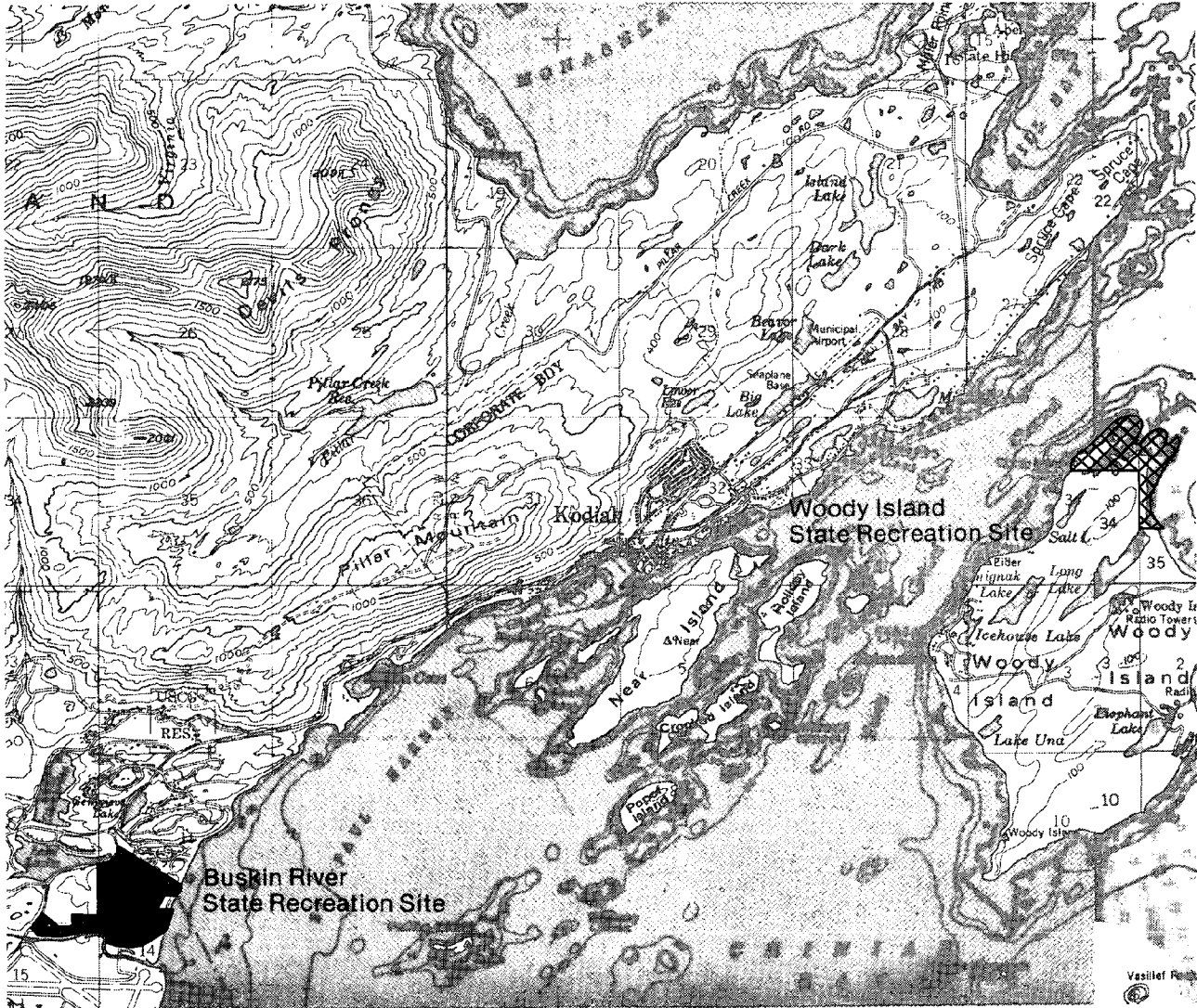
KODIAK ISLANDS

USGS Maps:
Kodiak D1, D2

- Existing Park Land
- Proposed Acquisition of Public Land

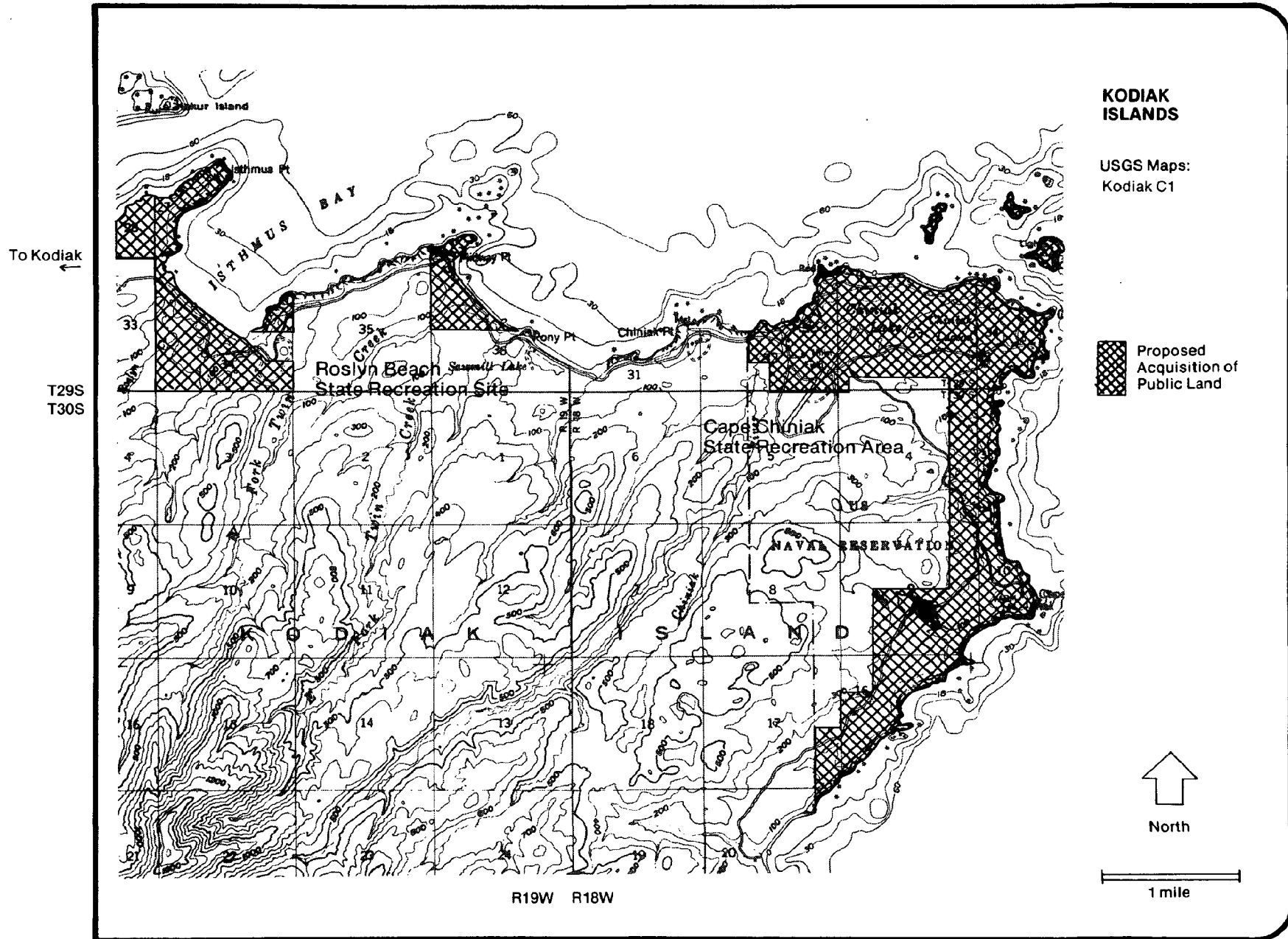


1 mile



T27S
T28S

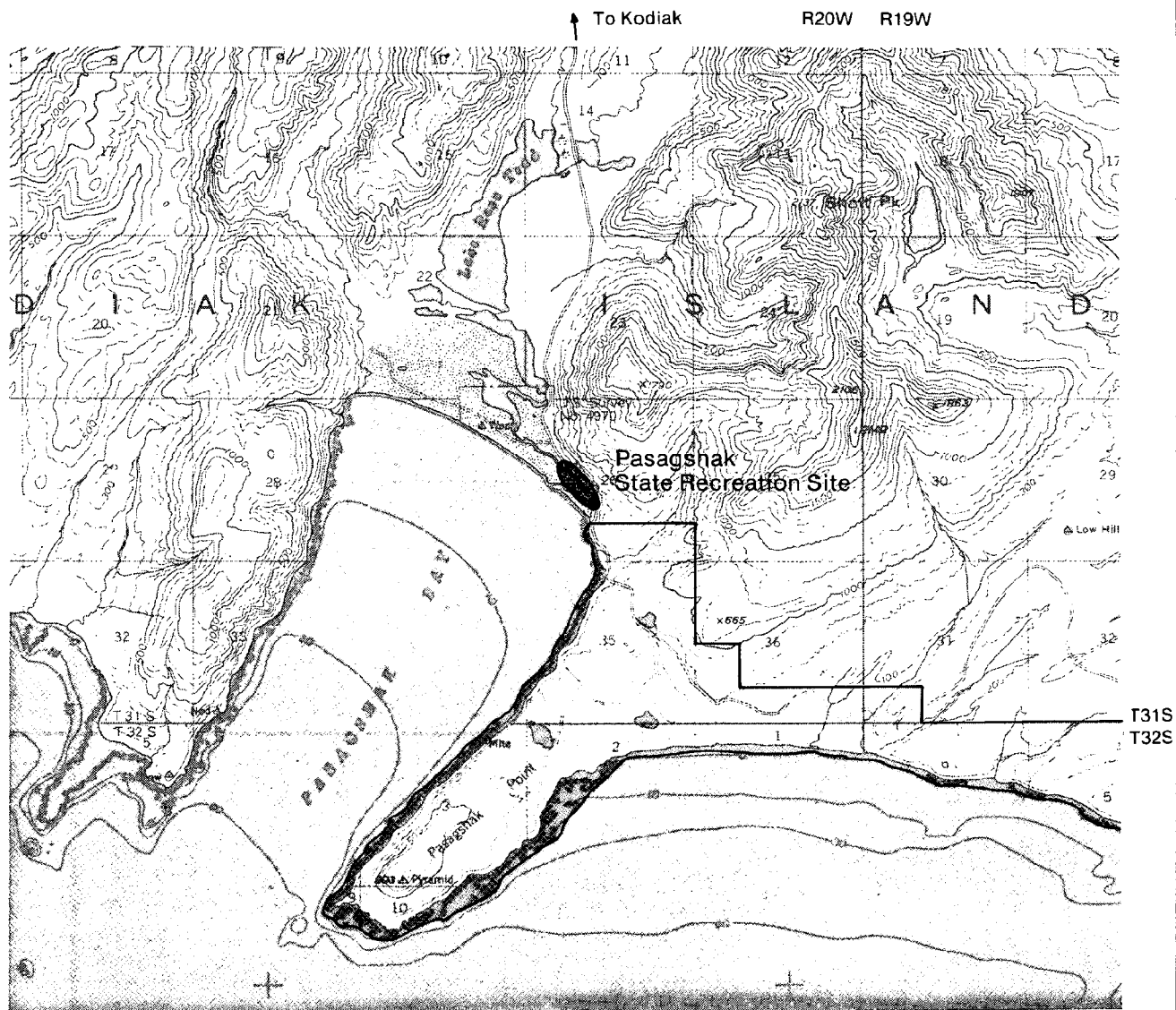
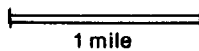
ROSLYN BEACH SRS/CAPE CHINIAK SRA



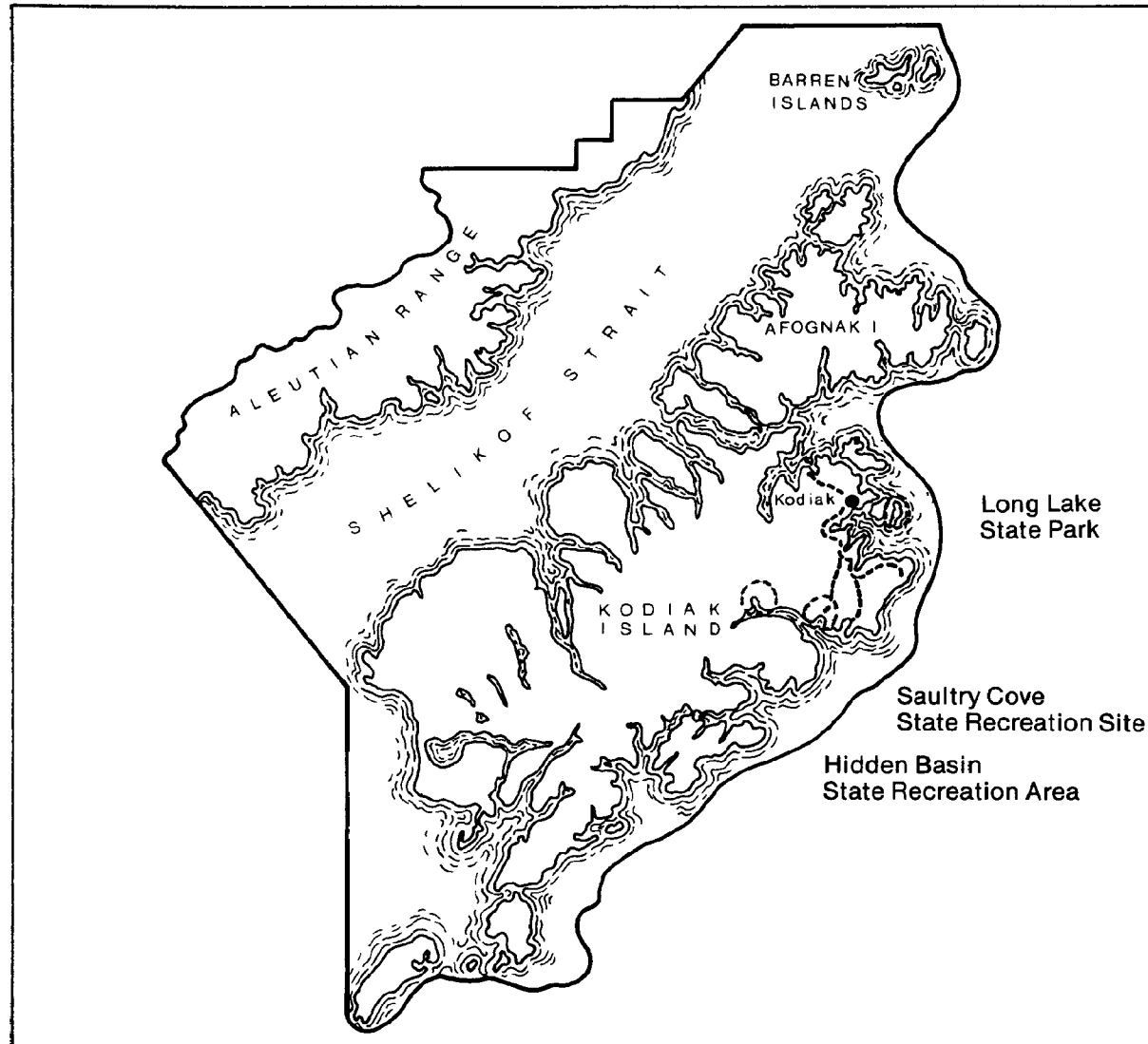
PASAGSHAK SRS

KODIAK ISLANDS

USGS Maps:
Kodiak B1 B2



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS



**KODIAK
ISLANDS**





Implementation

Methods

The Alaska Division of Parks will use various methods to implement the recommendations of this plan.

Land acquisitions: State-owned lands may be added to the State Park System through legislative or administrative action. Alaska Statute 38.05.300. requires action by the legislature in situations where land proposed for addition to the park system exceeds 640 acres. The Division of Parks will work cooperatively with the Department of Natural Resources' Office of the Commissioner, the State's Office of the Governor, the Legislature and various interest groups to secure legislative establishment of park units greater than 640 acres. Park units of a size equal to or less than 640 acres may be established by administrative action by the Department of Natural Resources. Legislative designation is preferred over administrative action. Inter-agency land management agreements (ILMA's) will be used as necessary to facilitate management and in accordance with the Department's Statewide Natural Resource Plan.

Acquisitions of private land need to be carefully evaluated and planned. Because of the expense to the state of acquiring fee simple title to private lands, less-than-fee acquisitions may be utilized when resource protection and public use goals can be met. Funds for the acquisition of private lands will come from a small, legislative capital improvements appropriation. Should the federal government reestablish funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, grants for the acquisition of park lands could also be obtained from this source. Where rapid action is needed to acquire a key parcel of private

land, and state funds are unavailable, the division will consider working with groups such as the Trust for Public Lands which can acquire land. Acquisition will be pursued on a willing-seller basis utilizing standard appraisal practices.

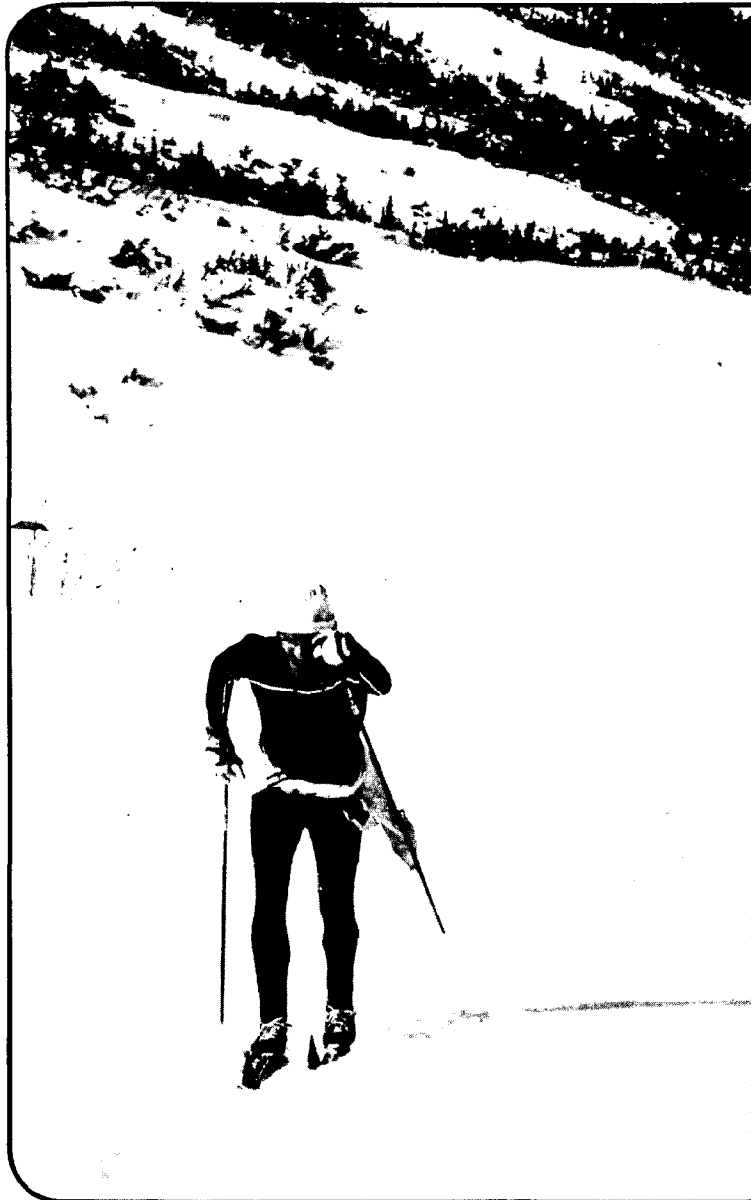
In some situations, cooperative Agreements for Recreation and Conservation (ARC's) may suffice to secure an adequate interest in a parcel of land to meet public-use and resource-protection goals. This method of acquisition is most commonly used when the land is owned by another government entity or a quasi-public organization, although the state may enter into agreements with private landowners.

Planning

Additional planning -- necessary to implement park development and management recommendations -- will involve the preparation of management and site development plans. Management plans are prepared to serve as long-range plans for the management of lands, public use, and resources of a park unit. Site development plans are prepared to provide a detailed design for the construction of recreational facilities within a park unit. Funding for the necessary planning activities to implement the recommendations of this report will be dependent upon legislative appropriations in either the operating or capital improvement budgets.

Development

Development of a number of existing and proposed park units is recommended within the Southcentral region. However, due to the lack of a current management plan for many of these



units, the exact nature of the proposed facilities are unknown at this time. Once management plans have been completed, funds for development of park facilities will be sought through the division's annual submission, to the state administration and legislature, of a six-year capital improvement budget.

Management

Securing adequate funding for the management of park unit lands and facilities is important to insure park resources are adequately protected, facilities are well maintained and public safety services are available to park users. Fiscal notes need to be included with funding requests to the legislature for capital improvements. As new park units are acquired, staff will be needed to provide supervision and management of park lands. Leaving new parks unstaffed frequently leads to complex management problems due to unmanaged public use. The allocation of district staff should be reassessed annually, particularly as new areas and facilities are added.

Phasing

Each recommendation of this plan has been assigned to a I, II or III phase of implementation. The recommendations are relisted in this section by phase to facilitate implementation of the plan. Each phase represents the priority of the time frame for acquisition, planning, development and management of state park units. Consideration will be first given to Phase I recommendations, followed by Phase II, then Phase III.

ACQUISITION

Phase I

Squirrel Creek SRS
Little Nelchina SRS
Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
Kepler-Bradley SRA
Hatcher Pass SRA
Nancy Lake SRA
Willow Creek SRA
Chickaloon ST
Little Susitna SRR
Alexander Creek SRR
Talachulitna SRR
Talkeetna SRR
Lake Creek SRR
Kroto Creek SRR
Iditarod Trail
Mirror Lake SRS
Peters Creek SRS
Chugach SP
Blueberry Lake SRS
Valdez Glacier SRS
Prince William Sound-
 Marine Park System
Bings Landing SRS
Scout Lake SRS
Morgan's Landing SRA
Funny River SRS
Lower Kenai River SRSS
Cohoe Beach SRS
Ninilchik SRA
Deep Creek SRA
Whiskey Gulch SRS
Anchor River SRA
Homer Spit
Cottonwood-Eastland SRA
Kachemak Bay SP
St. Augustine Island SP

Caines Head SRA
Thumbs Cove SRS
Fourth of July Creek SRS
Safety Cove SRS
Driftwood Bay SRS
Sunny Cove SRS
Shuyak Island SP
Woody Island SRS

Phase II

Worthington Glacier SRS
Lake Louise SRA
Eagle ST
Long Lake SRS
Bonnie Lake SRS
Matanuska Valley
 Colony Farm SHP
Moose Creek SRS
Montana Creek SRS
Independence Mine SHP
Yentna River SRSS
Bernice Lake SRS
Captain Cook SRA
Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
Clam Gulch SRA
Roslyn Beach SRS
Buskin River SRS

Phase III

Porcupine Creek SRS
Finger Lake SRS
Rocky Lake SRS
Big Lake (East) SRS
Big Lake (South) SRS
Denali SP
Kenai Keys SRA
Kenai River Islands SRSS
Cape Chiniak SRA
Pasagshak SRS

PLANNING

Phase I

Lake Louise SRA
Little Nelchina SRS
Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
Kepler-Bradley SRA
Independence Mine SHP
Hatcher Pass SRA
Nancy Lake SRA
Willow Creek SRA
Denali SP
Chickaloon ST
Little Susitna SRR
Alexander Creek SRR
Talachulitna SRR
Talkeetna SRR
Lake Creek SRR
Kroto Creek SRR
Prince William Sound-
 Marine Park System
Kenai Keys SRA
Bings Landing SRS
Izaak Walton SRS
Nilnunga SHP
Morgan's Landing SRA
Funny River SRS
Kenai River Islands SRSS
Lower Kenai River SRSS
Slikok SRS
Clam Gulch SRA
Ninilchik SRA
Deep Creek SRA
Homer Spit
Kachemak Bay SP
St. Augustine Island SP
Caines Head SRA
Iditarod Trail

Phase II

Tolsona Creek SRS
Eagle ST
Long Lake SRS
Matanuska Valley
 Colony Farm SHP
Montana Creek SRS
Yentna River SRSS
Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
Cohoe Beach SRS
Whiskey Gulch SRS
Cottonwood-Eastland SRA
Thumbs Cove SRS
Fourth of July Creek SRS
Safety Cove SRS
Driftwood Bay SRS
Sunny Cove SRS
Shuyak Island SP
Fort Abercrombie SHP
Woody Island SRS
Roslyn Beach SRS

Phase III

Squirrel Creek SRS
Bonnie Lake SRS
King Mountain SRS
Moose Creek SRS
Nancy Lake SRS
Blueberry Lake SRS
Scout Lake SRS
Captain Cook SRA
Kasilof River SRS
Buskin River SRS
Cape Chiniak SRA
Pasagshak SRS

DEVELOPMENT

Phase I

Worthington Glacier SRS
Lake Louise SRA
Little Nelchina SRS
Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
Matanuska Glacier SRS
Moose Creek SRS
Kepler-Bradley SRA
Independence Mine SHP
Hatcher Pass SRA
Nancy Lake SRA
Willow Creek SRA
Denali SP
Iditarod Trail
Chugach SP
Blueberry Lake SRS
Prince William Sound-
 Marine Park System
Bings Landing SRS
Izaak Walton SRS
Morgan's Landing SRA
Clam Gulch SRA
Ninilchik SRA
Deep Creek SRA
Anchor River SRA
Homer Spit
Kachemak Bay SP
Caines Head SRA
Buskin River SRS
Pasagshak SRS
Kenai Keys SRA

Phase II

Long Lake SRS
Big Lake (East) SRS
Big Lake (South) SRS

Montana Creek SRS
Chikcaloon ST
Little Susitna SRR
Alexander Creek SRR
Talachulitna SRR
Talkeetna SRR
Lake Creek SRR
Kroto Creek SRR
Nilnunqa SHP
Funny River SRS
Cohoe Beach SRS
Johnson Lake SRA
Whiskey Gulch SRS
Cottonwood-Eastland SRA
St. Augustine Island SP
Thumbs Cove SRS
Fourth of July Creek SRS
Safety Cove SRS
Driftwood Bay SRS
Sunny Cove SRS
Fort Abercrombie SHP
Woody Island SRS
Roslyn Beach SRS

Phase III

Squirrel Creek SRS
Tolsona Creek SRS
Eagle ST
Bonnie Lake SRS
King Mountain SRS
Matanuska Valley
 Colony Farm SHP
Finger Lake SRS
Rocky Lake SRS
Yentna River SRSS
Scout Lake SRS
Kenai River Islands SRSS
Lower Kenai River SRSS
Slikok SRS

Captain Cook SRA
Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
Kasilof River SRS
Stariski SRS
Shuyak Island SP
Cape Chiniak SRA

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Phase I

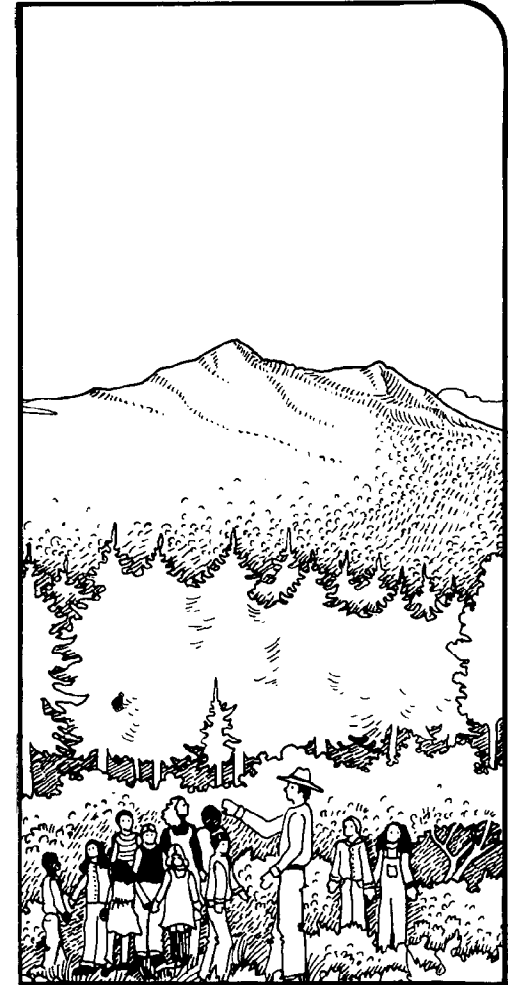
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Worthington Glacier SRS
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Nelchina-Tazlina SRR
Independence Mine SHP
Nancy Lake SRA
Willow Creek SRA
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Anchor River SRA
Anchor River SRS
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Caines Head SRA
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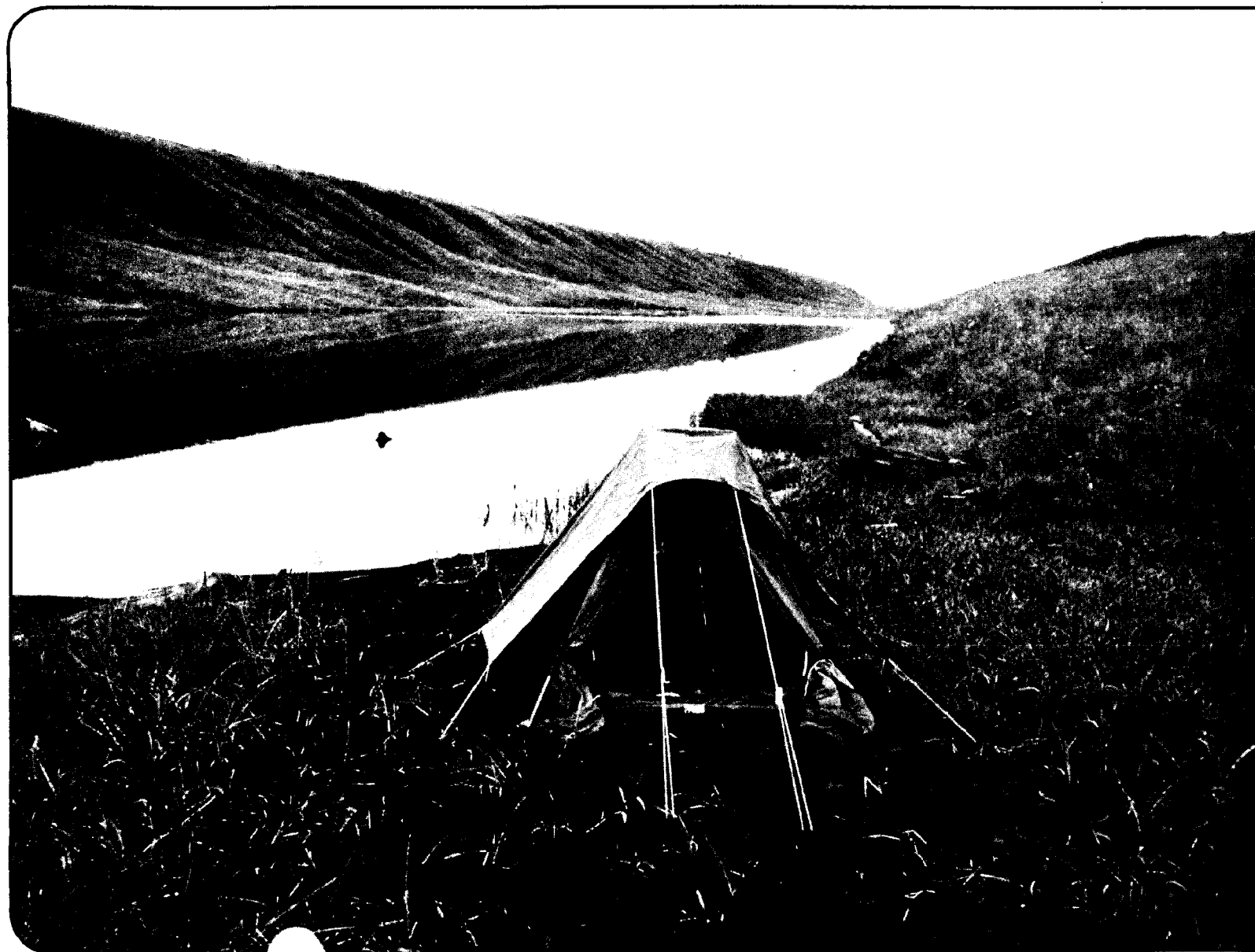
Phase II

Eagle ST
Montana Creek SRS
Denali SP
Chickaloon ST
Alexander Creek SRR
Talachulitna SRR
Talkeetna SRR
Lake Creek SRR
Kroto Creek SRR
Kenai Keys SRA
Whiskey Gulch SRS
St. Augustine Island SP
Thumbs Cove SRS
Fourth of July Creek SRS
Safety Cove SRS
Driftwood Bay SRS
Sunny Cove SRS

Phase III

Little Tonsina SRS
Matanuska Valley
Colony Farm SHP
Finger Lake SRS
Rocky Lake SRS
Big Lake (East) SRS
Big Lake (South) SRS
Kenai River Islands SRSs
Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
Johnson Lake SRA
Clam Gulch SRA
Shuyak Island SP





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Index of Units

RECOMMEN- DATION Page #	MAP Page #	UNIT TITLE (existing, proposed and future considerations)
66	81	Alexander Creek SRR
106	121	Anchor River SRA
107	121	Anchor River SRS
104	114	Bernice Lake SRS
64	76	Big Lake (East) SRS
64	76	Big Lake (South) SRS
102	111	Bings Landing SRS
107	129	Boxcar Hills ST
94	96	Blueberry Lake SRS
62	69	Bonnie Lake SRS
134	138	Buskin River SRS
108	126	Caines Head SRA
134	139	Cape Chiniak SRA
104	115	Captain Cook SRA
65	81	Chickaloon ST
86	89	Chugach SP
105	118	Clam Gulch SRA
105	117	Cohoe Beach SRS
107	123	Cottonwood-Eastland SRA
106	119	Deep Creek SRA
65	80	Denali SP
109	128	Driftwood Bay SRS
48	51	Dry Creek SRS
49	58	Eagle ST
63	75	Finger Lake SRS
134	137	Fort Abercrombie SHP
108	127	Fourth of July Creek SRS
103	112	Funny River SRS
104	116	Georgievsk Redoubt SHP
67	82	Gunsight Mountain SRA
63	74	Hatcher Pass SRA
135	141	Hidden Basin SRA
107	122	Homer Spit

RECOMMEN- DATION Page #	MAP Page #	UNIT TITLE (existing, proposed and future considerations)
65	81,90,129	Iditarod Trail
63	73	Independence Mine SHP
102	111	Izaak Walton SRS
105	117	Johnson Lake SRA
107	124	Kachemak Bay SP
105	117	Kasilof River SRS
102	110	Kenai Keys SRA
103	113	Kenai River Islands SRSs
63	72	Kepler-Bradley SRA
94	99	Keystone Canyon SRA
62	70	King Mountain SRS
67	81	Kroto Creek SRR
66	81	Lake Creek SRR
48	56	Lake Louise SRA
49	57	Little Nelchina SRS
66	81	Little Susitna SRR
48	53	Little Tonsina SRS
135	141	Long Island SP
62	69	Long Lake SRS
104	113	Lower Kenai River SRSs
62	68	Matanuska Glacier SRS
62	72	Matanuska Valley Colony Farm SHP
49	59	McCarthy SRS
94	99	Mineral Creek ST
86	88	Mirror Lake SRS
65	79	Montana Creek SRS
62	71	Moose Creek SRS
103	112	Morgan's Landing SRA
67	82	Mt. Susitna SRA
109	130	Mouth of Kasilof River SRS
64	77	Nancy Lake SRA
64	77	Nancy Lake SRS
49	58	Nelchina-Tazlina SRR

RECOMMEN- DATION Page #	MAP Page #	UNIT TITLE (existing, proposed and future considerations)
102	111	Nilnunqa SHP
105	119	Ninilchik SRA
109	130	Nuka Island
135	140	Pasagshak SRS
86	88	Peters Creek SRS
48	50	Porcupine SRS
94	98	Prince William Sound Marine Park System
63	76	Rocky Lake SRS
134	139	Roslyn Beach SRS
109	128	Safety Cove SRS
135	141	Saultry Cove SRS
103	112	Scout Lake SRS
134	136	Shuyak Island SP
104	113	Slikok SRS
48	52	Squirrel Creek SRS
106	120	Stariski SRS
108	125	St. Augustine SPr
109	128	Sunny Cove SRS
49	59	Susitna Lake-Tyone River SRA
66	81	Talachulitna SRR
66	81	Talkeetna SRR
49	59	Tazlina Lake SRA
108	126	Thumbs Cove SRS
48	55	Tolsona Creek SRS
49	59	Tonsina SRR
94	97	Valdez Glacier SRS
106	120	Whiskey Gulch SRS
64	78	Willow Creek SRA
48	54	Worthington Glacier SRS
134	138	Woody Island SRS
67	81	Yentna River SRSs

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